



# Cultivating Hardy Water Lilies

## BASIC REQUIREMENTS

**SUN:** The more sun the better. Some lilies will bloom with only 3 hours of direct sun daily, but most need at least 5 hours.

**QUIET WATER:** Avoid water motion close to water lilies. Do not place lilies where a fountain or waterfall will constantly splash water onto their leaves.

**WATER DEPTH:** 6 to 18 inches from container top to water surface. (Some tolerate up to 3 feet.)

**SOIL:** Lilies prefer a heavy garden soil containing some clay. **Do not use commercial potting mixes** - they just float away! Avoid soils which have been treated with insecticides or herbicides.

**CONTAINERS:** Hardy lilies grow best in wide, shallow containers. Plastic dishpans are ideal. Containers should have drainage holes.

## PLANTING WATER LILIES

**ASSEMBLE:** Containers, soil fertilizer (one tablet for each 4 quarts of soil), pea gravel.

### PROCEDURE:

Fill container  $\frac{1}{3}$  full of soil.

Push in fertilizer tablets.

Position lily as shown.

Gently add soil around roots and press in place.

Keep growing crown free of soil.

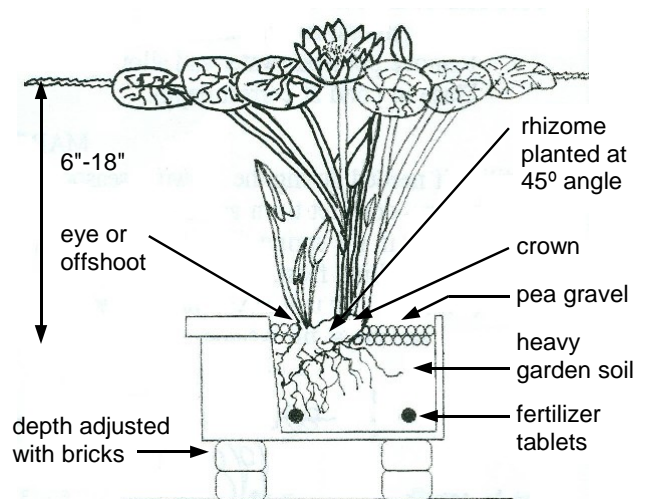
Immerse container in a tub of water until all air has bubbled out of the soil.

Remove container from water and allow to drain.

Cover soil with  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch of pea gravel, keeping crown free.

Place in pond at a depth of 6 to 18 inches of water over soil surface.

Soil and fertilizer may be increased (decreased) for larger (smaller) growth.



## MAINTENANCE

Fertilize twice during the growing season (April & July). Prune off old leaves and flowers - don't let them accumulate in the bottom of the pond. Divide and repot every 1 to 4 years in the late spring or summer. If roots might freeze, remove lily from pond into a cellar (not necessary unless you have a very shallow pond). Keep cool and moist until weather warms.