

Aquatic Plants, continued

- Great yellow pond-lily (*Nuphar polysepala*)
- Water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*)
- broad leafed cattail (*Typha latifolia*)
- willow moss (*Fontinalis antipyretica*)

Marginals and Bog Plants

- small flowered bulrush (*Scirpus albens*)
- hollow Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*)
- pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)
- marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
- Labrador tea (*Rhododendron goenlandicum*)
- Narrow leaf cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*).

Give Them a Place to Perch

Add rocks around at least part of the water feature, and one or two that stick up well above the water surface. Dragonflies like to sun themselves, and the warmth of flat topped rocks attracts them. A few small logs will add interest and variety. A nearby leafy plant with long stalks planted gives them a quick refuge from predators.



image: dreamtimes.com

Caveat for pond plants: DO NOT PLANT THESE!

Many water and bog plants are invasive in our area though some are still sold at local garden centres. Beware of the following lovely but environment-killing aquatics and marginals:

- Fragrant Waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*). A popular plant in many garden centres (see below).
- European Waterlily (*Nymphaea alba*). A related variety to the fragrant lily (above) that also chokes out native species, clogs waterways and is hazardous to boating.
- Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*): has sharp, nut-like fruits that can injure people and animals.
- Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Very difficult to control. Invades ditches, wetlands, streams, lake shorelines, and shallow ponds. A serious threat to streams, lakes, & urban drainage in BC.
- Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*): can form dense mats that hinder water flow and recreation.
- Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*): aquatic that can spread rapidly and displace native species.
- Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*): forms floating mats that block light and reduce oxygen levels.
- Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*): forms dense underwater stands & surface mats, displacing native vegetation.
- Yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*): forms dense mats. Blocks sunlight & reduces oxygen levels harming other aquatic life.
- Parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*): popular aquarium plant that can easily escape into the wild. Clogs waterways, and provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*): forms dense stands that alter water flow and displaces native vegetation. Considered a serious threat to aquatic ecosystems in British Columbia.

Resources

With thanks to the following print and internet sources who provided scientific data for this article.

- Canadian Wildlife Federation Blog, June 7, 2023
- Miracle-Gro Canada, <https://miraclegro.com/en-ca/landscaping-planning/>
- Ducks Unlimited, Canada
- Invasive Species Council of BC
- "The Rock & Water Garden Expert" Dr. D.G. Hessayon. 1193 Transworld Publisher, London, UK