

Water Gardens

Many visitors ask how they can have water gardens at home. A pond should be viewed as a habitat for plants and animals because you will have both. Water should not be over three feet deep and should not have a strong current. Water lilies and lotus both require eight hours of sun a day to bloom. There are books on setting up a pond and suggesting plants that do well in our area. Look at several in the library and buy ones you feel are most useful to you. **Consider community safety regulations before you build a pond. Some communities limit depth, others require a fence around a pond as one would a swimming pool.**

Tub gardens are an easy to manage substitute. They can be set on a table or in the ground but are usually a seasonal feature that can be emptied and put away in winter. A small tub garden can be a decorative dish with a single potted plant, or a large container with multiple plants and fish. Plants can be wintered over inside the house if there is sun and they are not cold tolerant, or the pots can be sunk in holes in the ground and covered with leaves if they will tolerate freezing. If mosquitoes become a problem (you will see wriggling worm type things at the surface) simply skim them off and dump them on the ground. In a small container, you can empty the container and refill with water as you would a bird bath. Restrictions on ponds may not apply to tub gardens.

If you have a pond with over 15 feet of growing space, you can grow Victoria Water Lilies as an annual. These are the platter type leaves and large flowers one sees at the garden in August and September.