



Planting Water Lily Tubers

For potting media, you can use aquatic potting soil or heavy garden soil (like moles bring to the surface when burrowing). You can pot in no-hole pots or European style mesh baskets, both types are specially designed for water gardening. When using very fine soil in the mesh baskets you may need to line the basket with cheesecloth or newspaper. **Do not use amended garden soil or bagged potting mixes as they will float.**

Fill the pot three-quarters full of dampened potting media. Place the cut edge of the tuber against the wall of the container. Tilt the root at a 45 degree angle so that the growing tip is above the anticipated soil level and near the center of the pot. Carefully add more potting media around the tuber to secure it in place, taking care not to bury the growing tip. Place time-release aquatic fertilizer pellets into the potting media near to, but not touching the tuber.



If you are using garden soil, you can add a shallow layer of pea gravel or decorative rock on the surface to keep the soil in place. If you have large Koi, river rocks will help protect the tuber from being disturbed. Again, however, do not bury the growing tip.

Once you have potted your water lily, place it in an area of the pond that receives full sunlight. Carefully tilt the pot and slowly lower it into the pond. This allows the air bubbles within the pot to escape without dislodging the tuber.

Start young plants near the water surface, allowing only 6-10 inches of water over the crown. Lower them gradually as leaf stems lengthen. The beginning of flowering will depend on the amount of sunlight and warmth received. In successive seasons blooms will become larger and more plentiful.

FERTILIZING YOUR WATERLILIES

Waterlilies are exceptionally heavy feeders. Fertilize monthly with aquatic fertilizer tablets during the spring and summer months. Or use the new Aquatic-Tab Spikes once in the spring to gradually release nutrients for the full season. Yellow leaves, infrequent blooms or slow growth usually indicate inadequate fertilization.