



Planning the Site for your New Water Garden

- 1) Do all your planting before you begin to dig.
- 2) If possible, select a site with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight.
- 3) Select a site that can be seen from as many places as possible, including inside the house. The water garden is a 12-month garden.
- 4) Avoid trees and shrubs where possible. Leaves can create a problem in the winter. If unavoidable evergreen trees and shrubs are better than trees and shrubs that drop leaves.
- 5) Avoid a windy area. The wind can knock the pots over and destroy the plants in the pond.
- 6) Avoid areas, which collect run off. Chemicals from lawns and dirt will collect and run in the pond and cause problems. Raised areas are much better.
- 7) Select a material considering both cost and ease of installation. Pond materials include pre-formed ponds and liner made of Superflex PVC or EPDM rubber.
- 8) Electrical outlets are required to have a GFI Circuit Interrupter. If you run a pump or lights you will need at least one or two outlets. Four is better, then if you need to run an air pump for emergency you have an extra outlet.
- 9) Check all local codes and ordinances. Some areas require fences and some areas only let you put a pond in the back yard.
- 10) BIGGER IS BETTER. The biggest complaint we hear is that people wish they had made the garden pool bigger.
- 11) Select Plants with the total landscape in mind. The pool plants should compliment or be complimented by the surrounding plantings.
- 12) Do not overload the pool with fish. Too many fish only give you a high nitrate level. Then you get an algae bloom because the plants can't absorb all of the nitrate.
- 13) Depth of pool is important if plants and fish are to be over wintered. Minimum depth should be 18" for plants and fish. Plants should be trimmed back and submerged for over wintering. A pump should continue to run during the winter or you should add a floating heater. Try to avoid heaters with the heating element exposed. They can burn fish if they get to close and touch it.
- 14) Adding a filter and UV Clarifier is really the best way to go if you want the least amount of maintenance.
- 15) Sit back and enjoy your garden pond. It will be the focal point of the garden. Make sure you have a place to sit by you pool. You will surely go there to relax when you are finished with maintenance of the other parts of your lawn.