

Common Lake And Pond Shore Plants



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THE ROLE OF PLANTS IN LAKE AND POND ECOSYSTEMS

- Help to balance the pond ecosystem.
- Biological filtration helps remove nitrogen, ammonia, nitrates, and other minerals that algae would otherwise feed on.
- Provide food, shade, and protection for the fish and wildlife that live in and around the pond.
- Function as nurseries for immature fish, frogs and invertebrates

Pickereel Weed

Family: *Pontederiaceae*

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun, partial sun

Water Requirement:

💧 High, emergent plant

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: pond and lake aesthetics

Size: 2-3 feet tall

3-6 inch blue-violet flower spikes

Native Habitat: **USDA Zone 3-9**

Streams, lakes, ponds, and ditches

Remarks: cover large areas, vibrant blooms, attract wildlife. Plant in 2-24 inches of water



Arrowhead

Family: Alismataceae

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun, partial shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Maximum water, wetland plant

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Lake & pond shoreline aesthetics

Size: 1-4 feet tall

1-2 inch white flowers in sets of three

Native Habitat: **USDA Zone 4-11**

Marshes, swamps, edges of ponds, slow moving streams

Remarks: Distinct blooms, aquatic wildlife food source, clumping rhizome plant, bareroot transplant. Plant in 2-12 inches of water

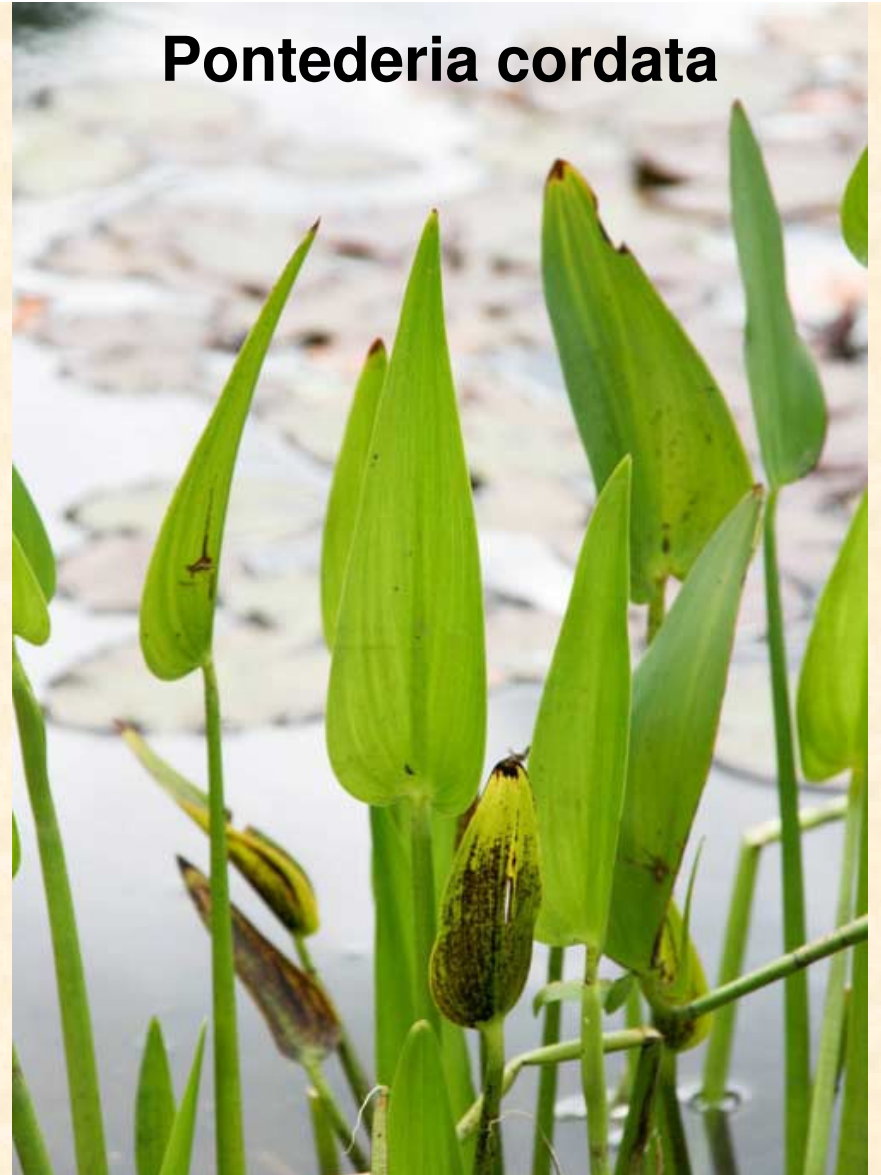
Sagittaria lancifolia

Duck potato
Sagittaria lancifolia
Photo by Ann Murray
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Sagittaria lanceifolia



Pontederia cordata



Broadleaf Arrowhead (Duck Potato) *Family: Alismataceae*

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun, partial shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Maximum water, wetland plant

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Lake & pond shoreline aesthetics

Size: 1-2 feet tall

1-2 inch white flowers in sets of three

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 4-11

Marshes, swamps, edges of ponds, slow moving streams

Remarks: Distinct blooms, aquatic wildlife food source, clumping rhizome plant, bareroot transplant. Plant in 1 – 3 inches of water



Bulrushes *Schoenoplectus spp.* (used to be *Scirpus*)

Family: *Cyperaceae*

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun, partial shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Moderate to high

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Pond aesthetics, borders

Size: Varies depending on species
2-4 feet tall generally

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 8-11

Wetland, pond, lake edges

Remarks: Divide in spring and summer to transplant,
waterfowl and aquatic wildlife like to eat the seeds.

Plant in 2 – 12 inches of water



White Water Lily

Nymphaeaceae: Water-Lily Family

Light Requirement:

☀ Sun

Water Requirement:

💧 Consistent water

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Lake and pond vegetation

Size: 4-5 Floating leaves or pads

4-9 inch white flowers

Native Habitat:

Ponds, lakes, swamps

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Nymphaea odorata



Spatterdock, or Cow Lily

Family: Nymphaeaceae

Light Requirement:

☀ Sun

Water Requirement:

♣ Consistent water

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Lake and pond vegetation

Size: 4-5 inch floating leaves or pads
small, partially opened yellow flowers on long stalk

Native Habitat: Ponds, lakes, swamps



Nymphaea* vs. *Nuphar



Yellow Water Lily

Family: Nymphaeaceae

Light Requirement:

☼ Part Shade/ Part Sun

Water Requirement:

💧 Wet/ Aquatic Environment

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Lake and pond vegetation

Size: 4 - 7 inch floating leaves or pads
4-6 inch yellow flowers

Native Habitat: Ponds, lakes, swamps



AMERICAN LOTUS

Family: *NELUMBONACEAE*

Light Requirement:

☀ Part Shade/ Part Sun

Water Requirement:

💧 Wet/ Aquatic Environment

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Lake and pond vegetation

Size: 4-6 inch round floating leaves or pads
4-9 inch yellow flowers on stalk

Native Habitat:

Ponds, lakes, swamps

Nelumbo lutea



Blue Flag Iris *Iris virginica*

Family: *Iridaceae*

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun

Water Requirement:

💧 High, emergent plant

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: pond and lake edge aesthetics

Size: 3-4 feet tall

3-4 inch blue-violet flowers

Native Habitat: **USDA Zone 5-9**

Wetlands

Remarks: fan-shaped foliage, vibrant and fragrant blooms, attracts wildlife, seed collection or separation to propagate. Plant in margins of wetlands



Golden Canna

Family: Cannaceae

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun, partial shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Moderate to high

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Saturated areas, aesthetics

Size: 2-4 feet tall

2 inch yellow blooms

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 8-12

Wetland, pond and lake shorelines

Remarks: Transplant through splitting, prune spent stalks to encourage new blooms. Prefers wet soil but will grow in dry areas.



Fireflag

Thalia geniculata

Family Marantaceae



Swamp Lily

Amaryllidaceae: Iris Family

Light Requirement:

☼ Full sun, partial shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Maximal, flood inhabitant

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Ponds, water gardens

Size: 2-3 feet tall

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 7-11

Wetlands, bogs, swamps

Remarks: **POISONOUS** seeds if ingested, fragrant, white showy blooms even in shade. Plant on wet edges. Freezes back in winter but returns



Spikerush: Eleocharis *Family: Cyperaceae*

Eleocharis cellulosa



Light Requirement:

☀ Full Sun to Shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Average to Moist

Salt Tolerant:

😊 Very salt tolerant

Landscape Uses: Ponds, lakes, Wetlands, bogs, swamps

Size: 1-2 feet tall

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 7-11

Remarks: Plant on shallow margins, 2-5 inches of water. Food source for waterfowl. Outcompetes torpedo grass. Use with pickerel weed and arrowhead

Eleocharis interstincta



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Cypress

Family: Taxodiaceae

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun

Water Requirement:

💧 Moderate, ethereal

Salt Tolerant:

😊 Salt tolerant

Landscape Uses: Shade, shoreline aesthetics

Size: Up to 80 feet tall

$\frac{3}{4}$ inch flowers

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 5-11

Canopy tree in shallow ponds and wetlands

Remarks: Tolerates acidic soils and can grow in drier upland regions.



Taxodium



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Lizard's Tail

Saururus cernuus

Family: Saururaceae

Light Requirement:

☼ Partial Shade to Shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Average to Moist

Salt Tolerant:

Ø Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: Provides habitats for small aquatic invertebrates, draws fish and other species

Size: 1-2 feet tall , white flower 6-8 inches

Native Habitat: USDA Zones 4-11

Ditches, swamps, marshes and other wetlands

Remarks: Works best by ponds or a shallow pool of water that receives part shade



Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis*

Light Requirement:

☀ Full sun to partial shade

Water Requirement:

💧 Moderate to High

Salt Tolerant:

∅ Not tolerant

Landscape Uses: wildlife, wildflower and water gardens

Size: 1-3' tall and a foot or less in diameter

Native Habitat: USDA Zone 3 – 10, moist meadows, bogs and along stream banks

Remarks: Will self sow in garden. Attracts Ruby Throated humming birds

