

Ask a UC Master Gardener



Practice Responsible Water Gardening

Invasive aquatic plants have escaped from water gardens into natural waterways



Water hyacinth surrounding boat. Photo: Bob Case

harming native plants, fish, and other aquatic life.

To prevent these introductions, do not dump plants from your water garden or aquarium into local storm drains, streams, or ponds.

Please contact your local master gardener for more information <http://camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

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Practice Responsible Water Gardening

How you can help:

- **Prevent introductions—DO NOT RELEASE** or purchase invasive plants, such as:

FLOATING

giant salvinia



leaves 1/16" – 1.5"

water hyacinth



leaves 4 – 8" flower 2"

SUBMERGED

hydrilla



leaf width 1/8" – 1/4"

Brazilian waterweed



leaf width 1/4"

Eurasian watermilfoil



leaf length 1/2"

POND MARGIN or BOG

giant reed



height up to 20'

purple loosestrife



height up to 6.5'

yellow flag iris



height up to 6'
flower length 4" – 6"

Uruguayan water primrose



plant height 3'
flower length 1" – 1.5"

parrotfeather



height up to 1' above
waterline, leaves .75" – 2"

- Dispose of unwanted pond plants by composting away from water bodies or sealing in plastic bags and placing in a trash container.
- Build your water garden away from natural waterways.

Practice Responsible Water Gardening

How you can help:

- Grow plants in containers to reduce the chance of spread. Even native plants can grow vigorously in your pond.
- Plant non-invasive alternatives, such as:

FLOATING

yellow pondlily



flower 4 – 6"
plant height up to 24"

Cape pondweed



SUBMERGED

coontail or hornwort



leaf length 3"

NOTE:

There are few safe alternatives to submerged plants.

These plants spread freely, especially those that are not rooted.

POND MARGIN or BOG

lobelias



flower spike 1'
plant height 3'

arrowheads



flower spike 3"
plant height 2 – 3'

pickerelweed



flower spike 3 – 4"
plant height 3.5'

common yellow monkeyflower



flower 1 – 2" wide
plant height 4 – 20"

western blueflag iris



flower 4 – 6" long
plant height 8 – 20"