



Container water gardens are perhaps the lowest maintenance gardens one can have. Other than fertilizing, they need little care. You need 6 things for a container water garden: Container, Water, Soil, Plants, Fertilizer and Sun.



Choose a container at least 18" in diameter and 18" deep. Wider is better. If it has a drainage hole, seal it with silicone or a drylock product

such as "UGL". Make at least a 6" (or deeper, depending on the container.....the submerged plant's roots should be about 12" from the surface of the water) bed of clean garden soil, or use plain kitty litter (non-clumping, non odor free....just plain fuller's earth. Usually the cheapest on the shelf). Garden soil is fine, but don't use potting soil. Add enough water to make the soil wet. Anchor lotus tubers on top of the soil with the budding eyes facing up, nestled in a bit, with a stone. Be careful not to break off the budding eyes. Bury the roots of water lilies and other aquatics. Fill slowly with water. Any soil in the water will settle.

Add aquatic fertilizer tabs according to the directions, or enclose a teaspoon or so of time release fertilizer in a paper towel envelope and bury in the base. Add water slowly, disturbing the soil and the plant as little as possible. Place container in full sun, if possible. The more sun, the better the bloom. If you do not put fish in the container, you can use a diluted water soluble fertilizer such as Peters or Miracle Grow. Aquatics are heavy feeders so fertilize more often that you ordinarily would.

There are many internet sources for aquatic plants. The miniatures are the most successful plants, but as you can see, full size plants adapt wonderfully.

If mosquitoes become a problem, there are several "dunks" on the market which can be dropped into the container which will prevent eggs from hatching. Battery or solar operated "bubblers" can also be used. Three for a dollar goldfish are good, and feeding them is actually bad. They will get all the nourishment they need from plant roots. Plan on no more than one goldfish for every 10 gallons of water.



Plant Sources: <http://texaswaterlilies.com/>
<http://waterlilies.com/>
<http://pondplantsonline.com/lotus.html>

Aquatic Plants

Water Lilies	Cardinal Flower (Lobelia Cardinalis)
Water Lotus	Louisiana Iris
Taro (Elephant Ears)	Swamp Lily

Canna
 Horse's Tail – Equisetum*
 Water Pickerel
 Water Lettuce*
 Water Hyacinth*

Creeping Jenny
 Bald Cypress (keep in small pot)
 Water Hawthorne

* Invasive