



Pygmy Water Lily

Nymphaea tetragona

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: *Nymphaea pygmaea*, Waterlily

Group/Class: Miniature Water Lily

Description:

Small, dainty, pink to white flowers with golden-yellow centers, over attractive, shiny medium green pads; a beautiful addition to small ponds or container gardens; easy to care for; water lilies dislike moving water

Ornamental Features

Pygmy Water Lily features showy pink cup-shaped flowers with white overtones and gold eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive small glossy round leaves remain green in color with hints of chartreuse throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Pygmy Water Lily is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a low habit of growth, spreading atop the surface of the water. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pygmy Water Lily is ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Water Gardens
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



Pygmy Water Lily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Pygmy Water Lily will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the water. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. To help this plant achieve its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Pygmy Water Lily is a fine choice for the water garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture.