

## Container Water Gardens

To make your easy water garden components look good, try to create interesting foliage contrasts.

For example, you could set an upright spiky-leaved plant, such as water iris, beside the bold foliage of a red-leaved taro plant or spotted leaf calla lily.

To grow a water lily, place your container where it will get at least 6 hours of full sun. Choose a dwarf variety that will not cover the entire water surface. To fill out the planting, add floating water hyacinth or water lettuce.

Fill your container with plants so that 75 to 80 percent of the water surface is covered. This will help keep algae growth down. Adding one or two underwater oxygenating plants such as anachris or hornwort will help to keep the water clear as well.

Other than replacing water that evaporates, fertilizing, and trimming your plants, there is little maintenance involved. Do not use potting soils with perlite, vermiculite, or added fertilizers. If your water source is heavily chlorinated, allow water to sit for 24 to 48 hours before adding it to your water garden.



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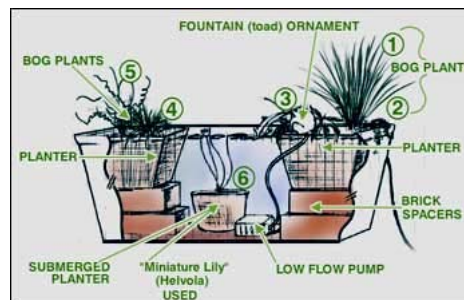
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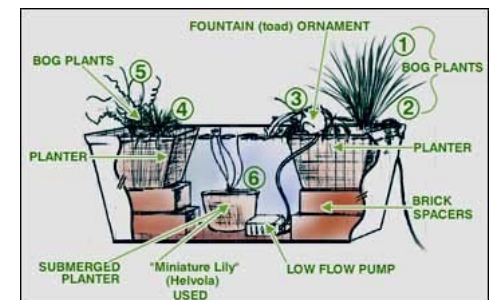
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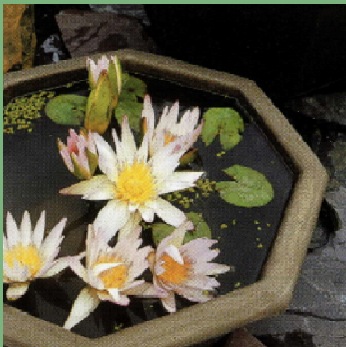
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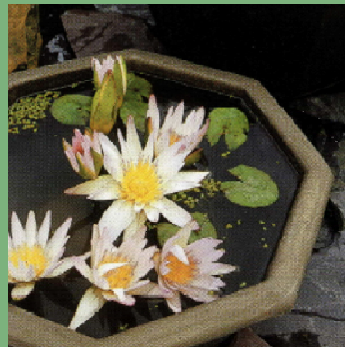
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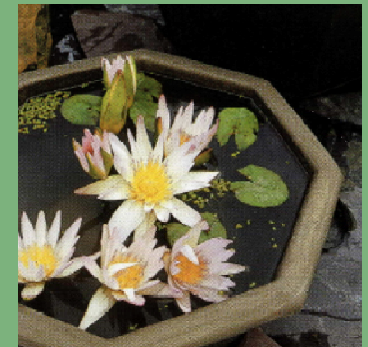
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