Learn to recognize them. In most cases, it is against the law to buy, sell, transport or possess these plants in the Great Lakes region. Though they may be available in catalogs or online, it is your responsibility to know state regulations. Contact your state natural resources or agriculture department for more information.

DO NOT release or allow escape of water garden plants or fish into our environment
They may become harmful aquatic invaders that...
- crowd out native plants
- damage habitat for fish, birds, insects, and amphibians
- interfere with recreational opportunities
- cost millions of dollars to control.

Tips for enjoying water garden plants and fish—in water gardens where they belong:

> Build water gardens well away from other waters and areas prone to flooding.
> Inspect and rinse aquatic plant orders to remove hitchhiking seeds, plant fragments, snails, insects or fish.
> Give or trade with another water gardener, pond owner or aquarist.
> Seal aquatic plants in a plastic bag and place in the trash. Do not compost.
> Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance on humane disposal of animals.

Be aware of state regulations regarding possession, transport, or sale of non-native plants and animals. Never transplant non-native plants into lakes streams, wetlands or stormwater ponds. Recognize which plants and fish are potentially invasive in your climate zone. Plants spread by seed, rhizome, or even plant fragments.
Choose these attractive and hardy native plants as alternatives to potentially aquatic invasive species

Add beauty and interest to your water garden with plants that are likely to be hardier than non-natives. Nursery professionals can help you select plants native to your area. Harvesting native plants from the wild may require a permit or permission.

Even though these plants are native to our region, it is illegal to release or plant them in lakes or streams without a permit from your state natural resource management or agriculture department.

Do your part—contain your water garden plants and animals

**ARROWHEAD**
*Sagittaria latifolia*  
**CARDINAL FLOWER**
*Lobelia cardinalis*  
**PICKERAL WEED**
*Pontederia cordata*  
**BLAZING STAR**
*Liatris pycnostachya*

**BLUE FLAG**
*Iris versicolor*  
**MARSH MARIGOLD**
*Caltha palustris*  
**MONKEY FLOWER**
*Minulus ringens*  
**WHITE WATER LILY**
*Nymphaea odorata*

**COONTAIL**
*Ceratophyllum demersum*  
**BOTTLE BRUSH SEDGE**
*Carex comosa*  
**DARK GREEN BULRUSH**
*Scirpus atrovirens*  
**TURTLEHEAD**
*Chelone glabra*