DO NOT RELEASE
ANY WATER GARDEN PLANTS OR FISH TO MINNESOTA WATERS

They may become nuisance INVADERS crowding out native plants, damaging habitat for fish, birds, insects, and amphibians, diminishing recreational opportunities, and costing millions of dollars for control.

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ENJOYING WATER GARDEN PLANTS – IN YOUR WATER GARDEN WHERE THEY BELONG.

- Never transplant non-native plants into lakes, streams, wetlands or stormwater ponds.
- Check your plant orders for unwanted, and potentially invasive, hitchhikers (seeds, plant fragments, snails, insects, or fish).
- Be aware of the regulations regarding possession, transport or sale of non-native plants and animals.
- Learn how invasive plants spread – by seed, rhizome, or even tiny plant fragments.
- Recognize which plants and fish are potentially invasive in our climate zone.
- Properly compost or dispose of unwanted plants or fish.

CHOOSE THESE ATTRACTIVE AND HARDY NATIVE PLANTS AS ALTERNATIVES TO POTENTIALLY INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

These native aquatic plants can add beauty and interest to your water garden and are likely to be more hardy than exotic plants. Nursery professionals can help you select plants native to your area. Harvesting native plants from the wild may require a special permit or permission.

Even though these plants and fish are native to Minnesota, it is ILLEGAL to release or plant them in lakes or streams without a permit from the DNR.

Aquatic plants are regulated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This poster produced through a collaboration of the Minnesota Sea Grant Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Water Garden Society, Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, and the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

* USDA-SCS, 1981. Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, TX.
**POTENTIALLY INVASIVE**
**WATER GARDEN PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN MINNESOTA**

**LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THEM:**

**PROHIBITED PLANTS**

It is against Minnesota law to buy, sell, transport, or possess these plants. You may not even have them in a self-contained water garden. They may be available over the Internet or from an out-of-state nursery or catalog, but it’s your responsibility to avoid introducing them to Minnesota.

**COMMONLY USED INVASIVE SPECIES**

You may enjoy these popular aquatic plants and animals in your water garden, but do not release them to Minnesota’s lakes, streams, wetlands, or stormwater ponds; they may become invasive.

**PLEASE DO YOUR PART – KEEP THEM CONTAINED IN YOUR WATER GARDEN.**

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