

Planting and caring instructions for Creeping Aquatic Plants, Marginal Plants, Water Irises & Aquatic Cannas

Shallow water creeping aquatic plants, marginal plants, water irises and aquatic cannas could be planted in pots/planting baskets or directly into permanently wet areas within the garden (i.e., bog gardens). Depending on the particular plant, some may require a sunny location in the garden whilst the others will prefer an area with more shade. Irises, they are best planted during autumn for the flowering in spring. Creeping aquatic plants marginal plants and aquatic cannas are best planted in during late winter or early spring.

Use the following steps as a guide on how to pot up and care for your plant(s):

1. Upon dividing or receiving a bare-rooted plant, place them immediately in a bucket of water if you're not ready to plant them within the next few hours.
2. Use aquatic planting baskets or plastic plant pots with at least a diameter of **150mm/6 inch** (for creeping aquatic plants) and **200mm/8 inch** (for marginal plants, water irises and aquatic cannas). Line the bottom of the pots with old newspapers (for planting baskets lined **both** the bottom and the walls of the basket). This is to cover the holes preventing any soil from leaking into the pond. (refer to diagram below)
3. Preparing the soil media: Mix **1** part of washed river sand to **3** parts light clay. Alternatively, if you have good healthy soil in your garden you could also use them as well. Just make sure that they don't have any diseases or pests in them. Your local landscape supplier may also have "clay loam" mix or "sandy loam" mix that you could use.
4. Firm down the soil mixture surrounding the growing shoots/tip. Add a top layer dressing of 1cm fine river sand/pebbles, not covering the growing shoots/tip of the plant.
5. Gently water down the soil mix until all the air bubbles have been released or disappeared. Place the planting basket/pot in the shallow end of the pond (either in a sunny or shade position) with the plant's growing shoot/tip at either: **100mm/4 inch** (for creeping aquatic plants) or **150mm/6 inch** (for marginal plants, water irises and aquatic cannas) below the water surface of your pond.
6. To fertilise once the weather warms up, add in aquatic fertiliser tablets. Recommended dosage is around **1/2 a green fertiliser** tablet to each **100-150mm/4-6 inch** planting basket/pot and **1** tablet to each **200mm/8 inch** planting basket/pot for every 2nd month, starting spring until the end of summer.

NOTE: Only use slow release fertilisers (**light brown tablets**) when you have ponds larger than 1m x 1m in surface space and feed only once every 3-4 months.

In southern Australia, water irises usually flowers in early spring (around **September**), while the others will flower throughout spring, summer and autumn.

