

Lotus Flower Care

Lotus are known for their large, round leaves standing above the water's surface as well as their fragrant blossoms and distinctive seed pods.

Hardy to Zone 5

Requirements

- Large container or in a pond
- Water level only 1-2 inches above the soil line – can increase to up to 6-8” in late summer.
- Full Sun/Partial Sun
- Rich soil – well fertilized. Add fertilizer every 2-3 weeks all summer until early fall (September)

Improving Growth of your Lotus

If your lotus is not producing flowers or the leaves are not growing, or are turning yellow/brown during the summer months be sure to check the following:

- Sufficient Fertilization – Lotus require very fertile soil and will show signs of nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium deficiency with yellowing leaves, little to no flowering or growth – to prevent, fertilize every 2-3 weeks in the summer months
- Water level is not too deep - bring closer to the water's surface (2” below waterline) or that the soil is not dry (if in a pot)
- Sufficient Sun exposure (6+ hours a day is ideal)
- Roots are healthy – they should be white and not mushy
- Pests – check the underside of the leaves for any small insects – treat plant if required

Wintering

Hardy Lotus will overwinter if their roots do not freeze solid. Foliage will die back mid-late fall, but roots will remain alive. Cut stems ABOVE water line

Best Practice for Overwintering:

Starting late fall, as the plant is beginning to go into dormancy (leaves turning yellow) - nighttime temperatures dipping to 10 Degrees Celsius.

Cut leaves above water line.

Bring the container into a garage or basement where it is cool but unlikely to freeze. Be sure the container has some water in it as the tubers should not be allowed to dry out. A dark area is great as you do not want the lotus to sprout early. Optimal temperature would be 5 degrees Celsius

Must have a grow light or heavy sunlight if keep in warm temperature indoors (do not fertilize during winter months)