How You Can Help: This brochure presents alternative aquatic plants that will fulfill water gardeners’ needs. Although they will not be exact substitutes for the invasive species, we have tried to list plants that will fulfill water gardeners’ needs. Consult your local aquatic gardening specialist to determine which plants are best for your setting.

It is vital to follow these simple guidelines:

• Build your water garden away from natural waterways.
• Plant invasive alternatives.
• Place plants in containers to prevent the likelihood that they will spread. This also simplifies pond maintenance.
• Dispose of unwanted pond plants by composting or placing in plastic bags in a trash container.
• Be aware of and report new plants that impede water flow.
• Build your water garden away from natural waterways, forming dense mats that migrating water birds cannot land.
• Take care to prevent all plants from spreading freely, especially those that are not rooted.

Symbols Used:

- Full sun
- Part sun
- Full shade
- California native

A Note for Aquarium Owners: Some out-of-state plants that may be used in aquariums will also be used in aquatic gardens. Therefore, it is important to prevent these plants from escaping the ponds since they have invaded local waterways and become a significant problem. This happens when people dump unwanted plants in local storm drains, ponds, or lakes, or if wildlife or waterfowl transport them. Once released, invasive aquatic plants cause serious ecological and economic problems for California’s water bodies. They can:

• crowd out native plants while providing little benefit to wildlife.
• reduce light and oxygen levels underwater, harming fish and other aquatic life.
• clog intake valves of irrigation systems and power plants.
• block access for recreational and commercial boats.
• spread by moving with the wind, especially the wind farms that generate power off the coast. This happens when the wind carries seeds into water systems off the coast. Each year clean ship loads of water lilies are shipped to California and sold as a low-maintenance aquatic plant. While the alternatives recommended in this brochure are not known to be invasive in California waterways, gardeners should take care to prevent all plants from spreading out of aquatic gardens and into streams, ponds, or storm drains.

Try These Instead

Cape pondweed (\( \text{Elodea canadensis} \))
A native plant with a dramatic white flower and round leaves. Tolerates moderate shade and is submerged in California waterbodies. This plant is easy to care for and takes care of itself.

Pacific fairy fern (\( \text{Mazama pygmaea} \))
Tiny free-floating, perennial fern. Tolerates low oxygen and shade. Can grow in a wide range of conditions, from full shade to full sun. Requires minimal care and is a good option for beginners.

Yellow pondlily (\( \text{Nuphar polysepalum} \))
A native plant with a dramatic yellow flower and round leaves. Tolerates moderate shade and is submerged in California waterbodies. This plant is easy to care for and requires minimal maintenance.

Do Not Plant

Water hyacinth (\( \text{Eichhornia crassipes} \))

An aquatic plant that is over 200 years old, water hyacinth was first introduced to the United States in the 1800s. It has since spread to the tropical and subtropical regions of the world and now infests 7000 acres in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It is also known as the floating jungle because it impedes navigation. This plant is covered by the U.S. Floating Mats Act.

Giant salvinia (\( \text{Salvinia molesta} \))
A free-floating, submersed aquatic plant. This plant is also known as giant waterweed or giant salvinia. It is widespread in natural water systems and is considered an aquatic nuisance species. It is also known as the water hyacinth of the tropics.

Brazilian waterweed, arariboa (\( \text{Egeria densa} \))
Brazilian waterweed is a fast-growing, invasive aquatic plant that was introduced to the United States in the 1980s. It has since spread to the tropical and subtropical regions of the world and now infests 7000 acres in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It is also known as the floating jungle because it impedes navigation. This plant is covered by the U.S. Floating Mats Act.

Submerged

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Dotted red and yellow foliage and colorful water lilies. Pond good source where water is present. To 6 feet tall and 10 feet wide. Cut stems to control spread.

**redtwig dogwood** (Cornus sericeus), **yellowtwig dogwood** (**C. filicinum**)

Grows 3 to 4 feet tall.

**lobelias** (**Lobelia cardinalis, L. fulgens, L. siphilica**)

A spectacular blooming bog plant. Tall leafy flowers resemble snapdragons. Great as a focal plant; please do not collect from wild.

Are 2½ feet wide.

**wilson's ligularia** (**Ligularia wilsoniana**) Do not plant

A tall and choose perennial with spikes of bright yellow, daisy-like flowers. Stems grow to 4 feet tall.

**avens** (**Geum wildemesions**) Do not plant

This decorative, gray-like plant produces attractive flowers that are show in full flower arrangements. Grows to 3 to 6 feet tall.

**fingerroth** (**Thalictrum aquilegifolium**) Do not plant

A native iris with flowers ranging from white to blue to lavender, growing to 4 feet. Plants look great in spring and summer. Stems 12 to 24 inches tall. Great for spring bulbs. List to 6 feet tall. Yellow flowers with white petals: perfect for small ponds. Great for small ponds.

**bog arrowhead** (**Sagittaria latifolia, S. montevidensis**) Do not plant

An annual or perennial. Fills out a 4 feet x 4 feet space in winter. Great for frogs. Blooms in spring and summer. Stems 12 to 24 inches tall. Great for spring bulbs. List to 6 feet tall. Yellow flowers with white petals: perfect for small ponds. Great for small ponds.

**ludwigia** (**Ludwigia palustris**) Do not plant

A water weed that spreads aggressively. Forms dense mats that impede water flow. Forms colonies along stream banks and can cause flooding. Listed as a noxious weed in Nevada. Use in ponds and streams but not in lakes. Use in ponds and streams but not in lakes.

**bog bennet** (**Heracleum sphondylium**) Do not plant

A perennial with blue flowers. Stems 6 inches or more deep. To 4 feet tall. This plant is aggressive and should be kept contained. Use in ponds and streams but not in lakes. Use in ponds and streams but not in lakes.

**buddleia** (**Buddleia davidii 'golden globe')** Do not plant

Grows 12 to 20 inches tall. Fast growing and fragrant. Light pink or red flowers. Great for butterflies and hummingbirds. Use in ponds and streams but not in lakes. Use in ponds and streams but not in lakes.

**siberian iris** (**Iris laevigata**) Do not plant


**lilac** (**Syringa vulgaris**) Do not plant


**buckeyes** (**Silphium perfoliatum**) Do not plant

A native herb with yellow flowers. Grows 12 to 24 inches tall. To 6 feet tall. Yellow flowers with white petals: perfect for small ponds. Great for small ponds.

**bog rosemary** (**Andromeda polifolia**) Do not plant

Grows 2 to 4 feet tall. Dark green leaves. To 6 feet tall. Yellow flowers with white petals: perfect for small ponds. Great for small ponds.