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Planting Sacred Lotus

Lotus grow rapidly, usually flower the first season and produce many flowers. They can only be divided at one time of the year but otherwise are extremely hardy and easy to grow.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT DAMAGE THE GROWING TIP

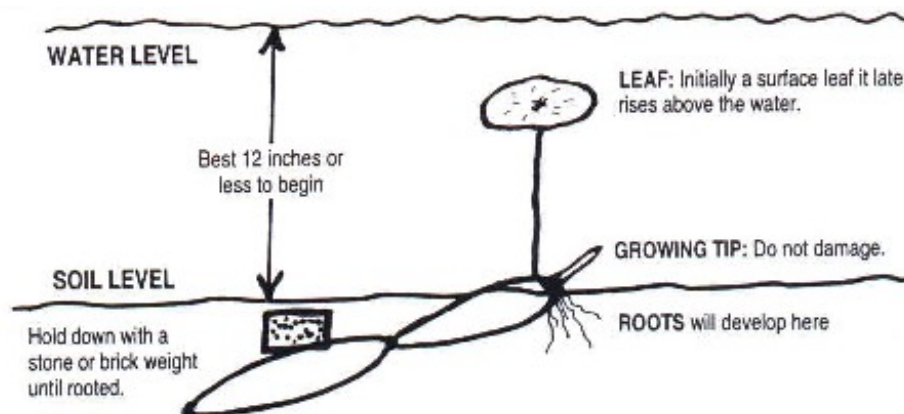
If Lotus are potted, round containers are best, preferably not less than 60cm (24 inches) across and soil depth around 20cm (8 inches). Plant Lotus shallow at an angle with the growing tip exposed above the soil and hold the tuber down with a weight if necessary until the roots develop.

It is best if the water depth is initially 10-30cm (4-12 inches), however once rooted, water depth may be increased. Lotus may be grown indefinitely in shallow water if desired. Heavy clay based soil is best, but Lotus will grow in sand, soil or soft clay especially if enriched with a fertiliser such as old cow manure mixed with one part manure to three parts soil. Alternate types of fertiliser may be used, e.g. slow release fertiliser or blood and bone mixed well throughout the soil.

DO NOT USE POTTING MIX OR LIGHT SILTY SOILS.

Remember that Lotus are gross feeders and a good quantity of a suitable fertiliser greatly increases flower production as does being exposed to full sunlight.

NOTE: Although planted as shown, the growing tip will turn downwards as roots develop, and then enter the growing medium.



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