

# Planting and Care Tips for Your Aquatic Plants



## **Pickerelweed**

**(Scientific name *Pontederia cordata*)**

**Description:** Pickerelweed is most easily recognized by its bright lavender flowers, which attract bees and butterflies. It blooms from late spring to early fall. Pickerelweed is a Florida native plant commonly found near water's edge of lakes and ponds. It is also useful for erosion control. It grows to an average height of 3 feet.

**Location:** Full sun preferred; needs wet/saturated soils (water's edge)

**Planting:** Plant anytime of year in no more than 12 inches of water at the edge of a standing body of water. Plant in sand or muck. Keep leaves above water when planting. Plants can be placed about 2 to 4 feet apart to form a nice stand several years later.

**Care:** Very hardy plant. Few important problems trouble this plant if planted in correct location. Some insects may feed on leaves and stems but usually will not kill the plant. Hard freezes will brown leaves but not kill the plant.



## **Lance-leaved Arrowhead**

**(Scientific name *Sagittaria lancifolia*)**

**Description:** Lance-leaved Arrowhead is most easily distinguished from other wetland plants by its showy white flowers on tall bloom spikes. It blooms from late spring to early fall. It is also known as duck potato, in reference to underground, potato-like "corms" that sometimes form. Arrowhead is a Florida native plant commonly found near water's edge of lakes, swamps, and streams. It grows to an average height of 3 feet.

**Location:** Full sun preferred; needs wet/saturated soils (water's edge)

**Planting:** Plant anytime of the year in no more than 12" inches water at the edge of a standing body of water (prefers slightly shallower water than pickerelweed). Plant in sandy or mucky soils. Keep leaves above water when planting. Space 1 to 2 feet apart.

**Care:** Pest problems are rare. Leaves may yellow during late fall. Hard freeze will brown margins of leaves but not kill the plant. Weevils may rarely feed on flowering stalks. High survivability.

**Please note, these plants should NOT need supplemental fertilizer. Overuse of fertilizer damages our lakes. To find out more, including how to build a rain garden, properly maintain your own lakefront property, and help protect our lakes, visit [casselberry.org/lakes](http://casselberry.org/lakes)**

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## Golden Canna

(Scientific name *Canna flaccida*)

**Description:** Golden Canna, also called the Yellow Florida Canna Lily, is a Florida native and Florida-friendly flower that produces showy yellow flowers, its most identifiable feature. Golden Canna attracts butterflies and is often found on pond and lake shorelines. It blooms primarily mid spring to summer. It grows to a height of 3 to 5 feet.

**Location:** Full sun and moist soils preferred; will not flower as well in shade. Medium drought tolerance makes a good choice for rain gardens, shorelines of lakes and ponds, and transitional areas where moisture levels fluctuate.

**Planting:** Best to plant from February to April (in Central Florida), 12 to 18 inches apart. Plant in sandy or mucky soils. Rhizomes can be planted directly in ground or in shallow water at edge of a pond or lake.

**Care:** Pest problems are rare. Remove dead blooms to keep neat appearance. A few insects feed on the leaves. Sometimes susceptible to aster yellows, mosaic virus, and bud rot. Hard freeze will brown upper leaves but not kill the plant. High survivability.



## Cord Grass

(Scientific name *Spartina bakerii*)

**Description:** Cord Grass is a Florida native and Florida-friendly grass. It is an excellent choice for revegetating shoreline and upland areas near lakes. Cord Grass also provides good erosion control. It can grow to height of 4 feet or more with a spread of 3 to 5 feet.

**Location:** Full sun preferred. Dry to moist soils preferred: highly drought tolerant but can also withstand extended periods of flooding, making it an excellent choice for rain gardens, shorelines and uplands, and transitional areas where moisture levels fluctuate.

**Planting:** Plant anytime of the year at or above shoreline in moist sandy or mucky soils, 3 feet apart.

**Care:** No pest problems. May be trimmed back if needed. Trimmings should be reused for mulch or properly disposed of as yard waste. Hard freezes may cause some leaf browning. High survivability.

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