Nymphaea alba

(White water lily)

White water lily is a perennial aquatic plant native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa. It has large, floating, round green leaves and fragrant, solitary white flowers in summer. It grows quickly, needs full sun and still freshwater with rich soil. Frost-tolerant and used ornamentally in water gardens. The latin name Nymphaea alba comes from nymphs, mythical figures linked to rivers and lakes, highlighting its aquatic nature. During World War I, its extract was used as an anesthetic when other options were scarce.



Landscape Information

Plant Type: Groundcover Origin: Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia Heat Zones: Hardiness Zones: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Uses: Water/Rain Garden

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast Tree Shape: Canopy Texture: Coarse Spread at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 meters Time to Ultimate Height: 2 to 5 Years

Plant Image

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Venation: Palmate Leaf Persistance: Semi Evergreen Leaf Type: Simple Leaf Blade: 20 - 30 Leaf Shape: Orbiculate Leaf Margins: Entire Leaf Textures: Waxy, Smooth, Glossy Leaf Scent: No Fragance Color(growing season): Green Color(changing season): Green, Brown

Flower

Flower Showiness: True Flower Type: Solitary Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual) Flower Scent: Pleasant Flower Color: White Seasons: Summer

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False Seasons: Summer

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Plant Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance Frost Tolerant: No Heat Tolerant: Yes Drought Tolerant: No Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline Water Requirements: High Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: No Diseases: Leaf Spots Edible Parts: None Pests: Aphids, Beetles, Leaf Miner Plant Propagations: Seed, Division, Rhizomes