Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Almost Black Hardy Water Lily

Nymphaea 'Almost Black'



Almost Black Hardy Water Lily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 14 inches

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Waterlily

Description:

Large, stunning ruby red, star-shaped flowers with golden eyes and near-black centers; burgundy new leaves mature to shiny dark green; a beautiful addition to your pond; easy to care for; water lilies dislike moving water

Ornamental Features

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily features showy lightly-scented double ruby-red star-shaped flowers with gold eyes and black centers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large glossy round leaves emerge burgundy in spring, turning dark green in color the rest of the year.



Almost Black Hardy Water Lily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a low habit of growth, spreading atop the surface of the water. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily is ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Water Gardens
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the water, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily is a fine choice for the water garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture.