

Yellow Pond Lily, Spatterdock (*Nuphar polysepalum*)

Gerald Carter

Range: Alaska southwards to California, Rocky Mountains

Climate: Low to middle elevations in moist, temperate regions

Local Occurrence: locally abundant in slow, shallow water

Habitat Preferences: Shallow ponds and lakes, extremely slow moving streams

Plant Strategy: Aquatic perennial with huge, thick "prehistoric looking" rhizome. Leaves and flowers float on surface. Rhizome is medicinal, seeds were a food staple of various native groups.

Associated Species: Cattail (*Typha spp.*), Wild Iris (*Iris spp.*), *Scirpus spp.*, *Carex spp.*

May Be Collected As: Seeds, Rhizomes

Collection Guidelines: Collect seeds late summer to early fall, rhizomes in spring. Collecting seeds is easy enough from a canoe, but rhizomes may require diving underwater to successfully pry them from the substrate.

Seed Germination: Stratify in **cold** water for 2-6 months

Seed Life: 18 months if stored properly.

Seed Storage: Store in cold water, drying or storing in room temperature water will result in minimal or unsuccessful germination.

Propagation: Reproduction occurs both by seed and rhizomes. Roots can be divided in spring when leaves first appear and transplanted to deep wet beds (preferably at least 2 ft. of water) or to site directly.

Soil/Medium Requirements: Sand, mud with some organic material

Installation Form: Small plant with submersed leaves from one gallon pots; or the cheaper option - 8 to 12" length of rhizome (bare-root)

Planting Density: 5 ft. apart in at least 2 feet of water.

Care Requirements After Installation: None

Lifespan/Growth Rate: Very fast, with rapid spread, providing shelter and food for fish and wildlife.

Sources:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/2ndlevpgs/pdfs/Circular4.pdf>

<http://www.suresoft.ca/G014/G14H.HTM>

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Schofield, J.J. 1989. *Discovering Wild Plants: Alaska, Western Canada, The Northwest*, Alaska Northwest Books, Portland.

Data Compiled by Shannon Kachel, Spring 2006