



Container Gardening

Nelumbo is equally happy in or out of the water garden. As long as the lotus' basic growing conditions are met, it can pop up amid perennials in the border garden in a buried stock tank or sit above the soil in an upscale or complementary pot. Lotus is suitable to any water-holding container, provided there is adequate depth and diameter for soil and a suitable water reservoir. The containers can be buried so the lotus appears to be growing at ground level, or they can be displayed above ground.

Above ground, any generously sized decorative pot that holds water will suffice. For non-waterproof containers, insert a pot that is waterproof. If the container is too tall and narrow the lotus may be planted in a plastic pot that is supported at a more appropriate depth. Lotuses grown in containers are low maintenance, versatile, charming, and often a stunning focal point on a deck, patio, or entryway.

Four to six inches of soil (10–15 cm) in a 36" (91 cm) diameter x 12" (30 cm) deep container makes a perfect home for *N.* 'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' buried at ground level in the perennial garden. Large cultivars would be equally at home in 42x15" (107x38 cm) or 58x18" (147x46 cm) containers. Dwarf and medium types should be buried in smaller containers. Remember that all lotuses prefer a wide base to provide plenty of growing room.