

Quick Guide for Gardeners

Foliage

Leaves are Chlorotic

Deep green veins with yellowing foliage can be caused by both under and over feeding lotus.

- New plants should not receive commercial fertilizer until several aerial (non-floating) leaves are present. At this time the plants have developed enough of a root system to adequately uptake nutrients. Fertilizer should be halted at least 60 days prior to the expected end of the season to give plants sufficient time to consume all the nutrients before entering dormancy. During the peak growing season fertilizer should be added every three weeks.



Too much fertilizer late in the season will affect overwintering tubers. Rolf Nelson, TX, USA; Do not place fertilizer tablets too close to new developing growth. Cynthia Thomas, CO, USA; Osmocote® caused major salinity problems if the water temperature got too warm and the fertilizer released too quickly. Slow release Landon fertilizer works well but should be added under the soil to prevent burning, rather than mixed in. Tim Schwender, NY, USA

- If using natural fertilizer, steer manure must be well composted otherwise fermentation of the soil can occur. A tablespoon each of dried blood and bone meal can be added to the bottom soil. Dried fish powder can be mixed with water into 1.5" (4 cm) balls and dried to be added later.

Steer manure can be incorporated or layered quite liberally, as lotus seems to need lots of feeding. Elda Rae Yoshimura, HI, USA; We have not had any luck adding manure. We add organic greensand for potash source. Cathy Green, TN, USA

Leaves Turn Prematurely Brown

Leaf burn can occur from pesticides, extreme hot and dry winds, or excess nutrients.

- Lotus foliage is particularly sensitive to some pesticide sprays so all products should be tested prior to a heavy application. Seek products labeled for use on aquatic plants. Damage from extreme weather patterns can be pruned out and new growth will replace it.



Overpray from adjoining properties may unintentionally be the cause of damage.

- When over fertilized, lotus foliage may become brown around the edges. If high nutrient levels are the cause, reduce feeding or replant into less fertile soil. Plants grown outside the pond may benefit from a flush of fresh water to wash away excess nutrients.

We have had problems with browning leaves, which we believe is magnesium deficiency. To prevent this we add about a teaspoon of magnesium sulfate. Rowena and Bob Burns, Ont, CAN