

American White Water Lily

Nymphaea tuberosa

-In the summer, the furred underwater leaves of American White Water Lily can be seen emerging from the rhizomes. As the summer progresses, leaves float on the water's surface with flowers scattered among them. Flowering occurs throughout the summer. It's flowers open during the morning and close by mid afternoon. When the flower is done blooming, it dips below the water surface where seeds mature inside a fleshy fruit.

-American White Water Lily is usually found in quiet water of lakes or ponds. It grows in a variety of sediment types in water up to 6 feet deep.

-American White Water Lily has been widely cultivated for its beauty and wildlife value. The flower can get to be as big as 5 ½ inches wide.

-Magic powers have been attributed to water lilies. In medieval times, it was used in love potions. The flower had to be picked during the night of a full moon. The people collecting it had to keep their ears plugged to avoid being bewitched by water nymphs. The flower was then worn as a love amulet.



It is remarkable that those flowers which are most emblematical of purity should grow in the mud.

-Henry David Thoreau

-June 20, 1853