

WATERSCAPING WITH OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANTS

Waterscaping is like landscaping but in a bed of water. Oklahoma has a good selection of native aquatic plants for this purpose. Below is a list of truly aquatic plants defined as plants that can grow in standing water. These plants, therefore, could be used to waterscape a lined pond. For a pond without a liner, the pool water would keep the soil near the pond saturated with water and a much larger number of plants would be available for landscaping the banks. Even then, the choice for the pond would still be the list below.

Aquatics can be categorized by how they grow in the water. The category will be indicated in the table with the following abbreviations. A common example of each is given.

- Fu Free floating upon the water surface, duckweeds
- Fs Free floating submerged, coon's tail
- Rs Rooted, submerged, water nymphs
- Rp Rooted, upper portion floating at surface but primarily submerged, pondweeds
- Ru Rooted, upper portion primarily floating upon surface, lily pads
- E Erect and emerged from the water, cattails

Rooted plants are usually grown in lined ponds in pots of soil topped with sand and/or gravel to keep the dirt in the pot. Many of the plants may not need these pots but just an anchor. For example, cattails can be grown in wire cages around their root balls with adequate weights to hold the plants erect. I also started pickerelweed in a pot but adventitious new plants that escaped the pot attached themselves to the artificial rubber lining sufficiently well to stand erect. The attachment did not damage the liner and the plants could be removed. With both the cattails and pickerelweeds, each year some of the older plants were removed and the others were kept for the coming year.

There is a collection of nonvascular species that should be mentioned as candidates for pond life. *Chara* sp. as a group are often called muskgrass or skunkweed because of their foul, musty almost garlic-like odor. *Chara* is a gray-green branched multicellular filiform alga that is often confused with submerged filiform flowering plants. *Chara* could substitute for those plants if that type of form was sought and *chara* is common in Oklahoma ponds and of many species.



Pickerelweed growing attached to pool liner

Oklahoma Native Aquatic Plants

Scientific name	Common name	Comments	
<i>Azolla caroliniana</i>	Carolina mosquitofern	Floating mats of stubby fronds, green to red in sun	Fu
<i>Bacopa rotundifolia</i>	Disc waterhyssop	Trailing, opposite disc leaves, creamy flowers	Ru
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	Watershield	4" floating peltate leaves, purple flowers	Ru
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Carolina fanwort	Cylindrical feathery, erect but submerged	Rs
<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i>	Twoheaded water-starwort	Attached, floating leaves support flower peduncle	Ru
<i>Centaurea Americana</i>	Water willow	Erect to 2 ft, interesting purple and white flower	E
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coon's tail	Submerged, usually free, fast growing mossy plant	Fs
<i>Didiplis diandra</i>	Waterpurslane	Erect, submerged, crowded narrow leaves,	E
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	American waterweed	Densely leaved, rises to surface, stays submerged	Ru
<i>Heteranthera limosa</i>	Blue mudplantain	Lance leaves, weakly erect, sky blue flowers	E
<i>Hottonia inflata</i>	American featherfoil	Basal pinnate leaves, hollow peduncle, flowers at restricted internodes, very unusual looking	E
<i>Justicia Americana</i>	American water-willow	Erect, dark green, purple spots on white flowers	E
<i>Lemna</i> sp.	Duckweed	Floating, one root plant, can cover surface, all species here are native, preferred pool fish food	Fu
<i>Glinus radiatus</i>	Spreading sweetjuice	Purslane like	Ru
<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Floating marshpenneywort	Trailing, lobed peltate leaves, umbel	Ru
<i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i>	Manyflower marshpenneywort	Trailing, peltate leaves, umbel of several small greenish white flowers	Ru
<i>Limnobium spongia</i>	American spongeplant	Erect 3" spade leaves, 1" green-yellow flowers	E
<i>Ludwigia palustris</i>	Marsh seedbox	Erect, shiny dark leaves, flower in sepal tube	E
<i>Ludwigia peploides subsp. glabrescens</i>	Floating primrose-willow	Creeping, shiny dark leaves, bright yellow flowers, when growing on bank extended out in water	Ru
<i>Ludwigia repens</i>	Creeping primrose-willow	Flower like <i>L. Palustris</i> , plant like <i>L. peploides</i>	Ru
<i>Marsilea vestita</i>	Hairy water clover	Floating frond resembles four leaf clover	Fu
<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	Two-leaf watermilfoil	Pinnate water leaves, emerged narrow leaves	Ru
<i>Myriophyllum pinnatum</i>	Cutleaf watermilfoil	Pinnate water leaves, emerged narrow leaves	Ru
<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	Southern water nymph	Branched filiform submerged plant	Ru
<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	American water lotus	Large pad leaves, large white flower	Ru
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow pond-lily	Pad leaves, folded yellow flower	Ru
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	American white waterlily	Pad leaves, white flowers, unpleasant odor	Ru
<i>Nymphaea odorata subsp. tuberosa</i>	American white waterlily	Smaller version without odor	Ru
<i>Pilularia americana</i>	American pillwort	Grass blade like frond, can grow submerged	Rs
<i>Podostemum ceratophyllum</i>	Hornleaf riverweed	Submerged branching filiform plant	Rs
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickerelweed	Erect to 4 ft, large leaves, blue flowered spike	E
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	Largeleaf pondweed	Ovate leaves, some floating, small flowered spike	Rp
<i>Potamogeton diversifolius</i>	Waterthread pondweed	As above but water leaves filamentous	Rp
<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>	Leafy pondweed	As above but all leaves filamentous	Rp
<i>Potamogeton illinoensis</i>	Illinois pondweed	Like <i>P. amplifoliosus</i>	Rp
<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>	Longleaf pondweed	Like <i>P. amplifoliosus</i> , longer leaves	Rp
<i>Potamogeton pulcher</i>	Pondweed	Like <i>P. amplifoliosus</i>	Rp
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small pondweed	Smaller version	Rp
<i>Proserpinaca palustris</i>	Marsh mermaidweed	Erect, emerging, long lance leaves.	E
<i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i>	Yellow water buttercup	Deeply divided leaves, yellow flower	E
<i>Ranunculus longirostris</i>	Longbeak buttercup	Deeply divided leaves, long stemmed blue flower	E

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<i>Ruppia maritima</i>	Widgeongrass	Erect, emerging forb, filiform leaves, small flowers	E
<i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i>	Common duckmeat	Free floating plant with more than one root	Fu
<i>Stuckenia pectinatus</i>	Sago pondweed	Submerged, bunch filiform leaves fanlike, spike	Rs
<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	Powdery alligator-flag	Large, lance leaves, 6 ft peduncle, purple flowers	E
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Southern cattail	Narrower leaved version	E
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broadleaf cattail	T. angustifolia nonnative, hybridizes with natives	E
<i>Utricularia gibba</i>	Humped bladderwort	Submerged basal filiform leaves and leaflets, yellow flower on erect peduncle	E
<i>Utricularia inflata</i>	Swollen bladderwort	Like <i>U. gibba</i> with swollen petioles	E
<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>	Common bladderwort	Like <i>U. gibba</i>	E
<i>Utricularia subulata</i>	Zigzag bladderwort	Like <i>U. gibba</i>	E
<i>Wolffia Columbiana</i>	Columbian watermeal	Free floating rootless	Fu
<i>Wolffiella gladiate</i>	Florida mudmidget	Several narrow leaves radially joined	Fu
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	Horned pondweed	Submerged filiform forb, filiform leaves	Rs