

## The Waterside Garden

Water gardening forms a continuum from plants which grow in the water, through the waterside where the plants can get their roots in the water if they want to, to the moist border where the soil never totally dries out. We don't offer any true water plants, we begin at the margins of the pond or stream, where some of our favourite plants grow.

Two deciduous conifers which need to grow right on the edge of the water are *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (the Dawn Redwood) and *Taxodium distichum* (the Swamp Cypress). Both have fine, green, flattened needles and interesting autumn colour.

*Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa' – the Contorted Willow – is also best planted at the waterside as it consumes astounding quantities of water. Its red, twisting branches and twigs are marvellous in winter.

We like to plant the coloured-stemmed Dogwoods where their stems reflect in the water in winter. Particular favourites are *Cornus alba* 'Red Selection' with vivid red stems and *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' with flame-coloured stems

*Gunnera tinctoria* and the larger *Gunnera manicata* need to grow at the water's edge. Both have enormous leaves which die down in winter. It is essential to mulch the plants deeply over-winter to protect the crowns of the plants.

*Rodgersia aescuifolia* and *Rodgersia pinnata* 'Elegans' do best grown next to water and need partial shade.

*Zantedeschia aethiopica* – the Arum Lily – is another waterside favourite with its large white flowers wrapped round the central spathe

*Osmunda regalis* – the Royal Fern does best when planted next to the water and mulched.

*Fargesia murielae* is an evergreen, slowly spreading bamboo which requires moist soil and tolerates permanently damp soil. Wind-resistant, it makes a good windbreak.