

water lotus *Nelumbo lutea*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Nymphaeales

Family: Nelumbonaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The water lotus is an aquatic perennial herb with underwater stems. Each single, round leaf may grow up to two and one-half feet across. The leaf is attached to the stalk at the center. The flower is solitary and rises above the surface of the water. The flower is pale-yellow and may grow up to 10 inches wide. The fruits are spherical nuts up to one-half inch in diameter, sunken in a woody receptacle.

BEHAVIORS

This plant grows in standing water in lakes, ponds and rivers. The water lotus flowers from July through September. It may form dense colonies that are several acres in size. The leaves of this plant provide shelter for fish and wildlife.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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