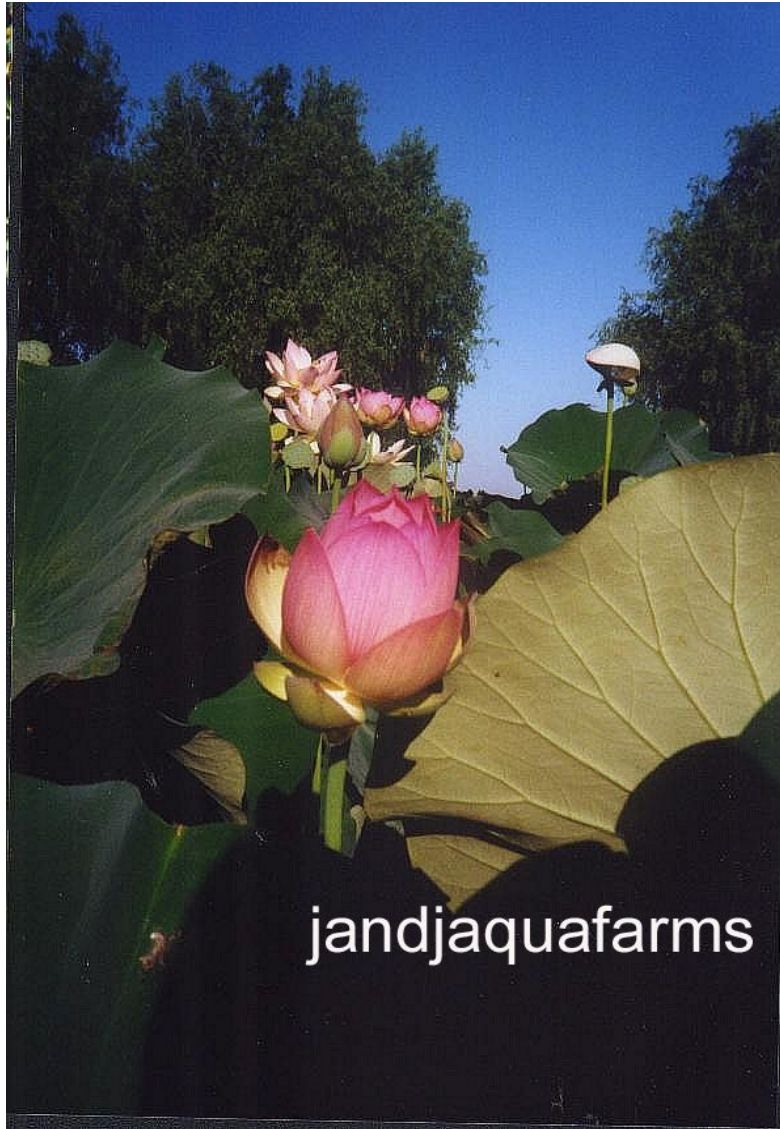


Planting Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*)



- Your lotus will be in the form of a tuber (cylindrical flesh-colored) or runners (thin and jointed). One or more whitish growing tips will be found near the joints. Small leaves may be present. There may be more than one piece of lotus in your package. Each can become a separate plant. We ship them this way because you deserve to have the greatest chance at success in growing the beautiful Sacred Lotus.

- Our plants have been dipped in an antiseptic/anti-parasitical that is completely non-toxic to your fish!
- Your lotus will do best in good quality soil, though they will grow in pure sand or gravel. Some garden centers sell water plant potting mix. Gravel at the bottom of your pot will help sink the planting container and one-inch gravel at the top will keep foraging koi out. Be sure your pot or soil has no insecticide/herbicide residues or they may leach out and kill your fish!
- Unpack your lotus carefully and pay particular attention to the fragile growing, pointed, tip. Leave the growing tip just above soil level and be careful not to break it off. (Do not worry, another will grow if you do!) Elevate the pot in the pond to expose the growing tip to sunlight, and, as the lotus grows, you may lower the pot until you reach the desired depth (1 to 3 feet) Lotus does exceptionally well in a bog too!
- If your pond has little available nitrogen (few fish or abundant plant life), fertilize when the lotus produces leaves. Slow release tablets made for ponds are great, but you can use 15-15-15 or similar by wrapping it in some newspaper and inserting it just under the soil level. If the lotus is planted in the pond bottom mud or if you are using the plant for biofiltration and nitrate removal, supplemental fertilization is usually unnecessary.
- The more direct sunlight, the healthier the plant and the more blooms you'll get! There should be a minimum of four hours direct sunlight. Optimum temperature is between 70° and 90° F.
- As winter approaches, you will see the leaves die and the tuber will go dormant. Unless your pond freezes to the tuber level, your lotus will survive and wake next Spring. If you think the pond bottom will freeze, then dig the tubers out and put them indoors (33-45° F) or even in your refrigerator! Plant in the Spring when the water warms to at least 50° F.

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Thank you for searching for pond management information on JandJAquafarms.com. We have a team of pond, plant, and fish experts that will work hard to maximize the health and beauty of your aquatic environment!