Enjoy your WATER GARDENS responsibly

Protect Our Environment
Do Not Release Fish and Aquatic Plants

Get Habitattitude™

Fish, snails and plants that escape from water gardens can harm our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. They are costly to control and nearly impossible to eradicate. Take action by not allowing plants to escape and by not releasing unwanted fish or other animals.

www.Habitattitude.net

PIJAC • U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE • NOAA • MN SEA GRANT
GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE • WILDLIFE FOREVER
MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES • NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM • UMN EXTENSION
MN NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE association • U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Do Not Allow Escape of Plants or Release of Unwanted Fish

✓ **Build** water gardens away from other waters and areas prone to flooding.

✓ **Inspect** and **rinse** aquatic plant orders to remove hitchhiking seeds, plant fragments, snails, insects or fish.

✓ **Give** or **trade** with another water gardener, pond owner or aquarist.

✓ **Seal** aquatic plants in a plastic bag and place in the trash. **Do not compost.**

✓ **Contact** a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance on humane disposal of animals.

Ensure that pets and plants are chosen wisely and are well cared for. Be aware of which plants, fish and other animals are potentially invasive in your climate zone. Never release fish or transplant plants into lakes, streams, wetlands and stormwater ponds. State regulations prohibit possession, transport, or sale of invasive plants and animals.

For more information, call the University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program (218) 726-8712; or a Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Specialist (see www.mndnr.gov/invasives/contacts.html), 1-888-MINNDNR or (651) 259-5100.

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