



**Almost Black Hardy Water Lily**  
*Nymphaea 'Almost Black'*

Height: 14 inches

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Waterlily

**Description:**

Large, stunning ruby red, star-shaped flowers with golden eyes and near-black centers; burgundy new leaves mature to shiny dark green; a beautiful addition to your pond; easy to care for; water lilies dislike moving water

**Ornamental Features**

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily features showy lightly-scented double ruby-red star-shaped flowers with gold eyes and black centers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large glossy round leaves emerge burgundy in spring, turning dark green in color the rest of the year.

**Landscape Attributes**

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Water Gardens
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



*Almost Black Hardy Water Lily flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Almost Black Hardy Water Lily flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

### Planting & Growing

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is an excellent choice for very wet locations or locations with some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. To help this plant achieve its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Almost Black Hardy Water Lily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.