

# Pickerelweed

## *Pontederia cordata*

Pickerelweed can be found in the wild from Nova Scotia through the entire state of Florida in shallow wetland areas around the edges of ponds and lakes. It can complement the waterlilies in a water garden by adding height, texture, and blue flower color. It grows in water no more than about 12 inches deep. Deeper water will kill them. Pickerelweed grows best in a sunny location. Its aggressive habit can help stabilize a pond bank, and it is nicely suited for planting in a water retention pond. To prevent the plant from spreading and invading the entire pond or lake, keep plants in a container without drainage holes.

**Type:** perennial aquatic plant

**USDA hardiness zones:** 3 through 10

**Uses:** water garden; attracts butterflies

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Height:** 3 to 5 feet

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant spacing:** 3 to 5 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; grows submerged in water

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Invasive potential:** aggressive, spreading plant

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

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