

## NYMPHAEACEAE WATERLILY FAMILY

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Freshwater aquatic perennial herbs, usually glabrous, with thick adventitious roots. STEMS horizontal rhizomes or shortened erect caudexes. LEAVES large, simple, alternate, stipulate, usually floating; blades often peltate, orbicular to cordate; petioles elongate. FLOWERS axillary, solitary, large and conspicuous, long-peduncled, floating or elevated above the water surface, actinomorphic, hypogynous, perfect, usually complete; sepals 3-many, green, often petaloid; petals 0-many, often in many series, often passing into petaloid staminodes, usually with nectaries; stamens 3-many, free or adnate to the petals; pistil of 3-many usually united carpels; stigmas united into a disk-like structure of 3-many radiating rays; style absent; ovary 3-many locular, the ovules 2-many per locule. FRUITS follicles or leathery berries, irregularly splitting. --6 genera (*Barclaya*, *Euryale*, *Nuphar*, *Nymphaea*, *Ondinea* and *Victoria*) with 60-70 spp., worldwide.

1. Leaf venation pinnate; sepals 6, greenish-yellow; petals inconspicuous, yellow, scale-like or stamen-like, not spreading ..... *Nuphar*
- 1' Leaf venation mostly palmate; sepals 4, green; petals conspicuous, showy, white, yellow, pink to blue, similar in size and shape to the sepals, spreading ..... *Nymphaea*

### *Nuphar* Sm. Spatterdock, Yellow Pondlily, Yellow Waterlily, Cowlily

STEMS of branching rhizomes. LEAVES lanceolate to orbicular, deeply cleft, entire, pinnately veined, glabrous above and glabrous to densely pubescent below; petiole terete, flattened or winged, glabrous to pubescent. FLOWERS usually floating; sepals 5-14, greenish, yellow- or red-tinged, persistent; petals numerous, inconspicuous, scale- or stamen-like, oblong to spatulate, often emarginate; stamens numerous, yellow- or red-tinged; pistils with 5-many, mostly united carpels; stigmatic disk broad, concave or flat, with 5-many rays; ovary multi-locular, each locule with numerous ovules. FRUIT a leathery berry, ovoid to columnar, usually ripening above the water surface. SEEDS narrowly to broadly ovoid, yellow to brown, with a more or less conspicuous raphe.  $x = 17$ . --1-3 sp., mostly temperate, subarctic to subtropical areas of the n hemisphere. (From the Arabic name, Naufar, for some unknown waterlily). Taxonomically difficult and not well understood. Beal, E. O. 1956. *J. Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc.* 72:317-346.

*Nuphar luteum* (L.) Sibth. & Sm. (yellow). Yellow Waterlily. --LEAVES with broadly rounded to acute tips, the basal lobes overlapping to widely divergent. FLOWERS with anthers 1-8 mm long. FRUITS with stigmatic disk dentate to entire, slightly to narrowly constricted below. SEEDS to 6 mm long. --As many as 9 subspp., throughout the n hemisphere.

Subsp. *polysepalum* (Engelm.) E. O. Beal (many sepals). Yellow Pondlily. --LEAVES usually floating, sometimes emersed, broadly ovate to oblong, glabrous; petioles terete. FLOWERS to 12 cm in diameter when fully open; sepals 7-9(-12); petals small, usually concealed by the stamens, usually yellow, sometimes red-tinged; stamens with yellow to deeply red-tinged anthers, the filament often extending 1-4 mm beyond the anther; stigmatic disk entire to deeply crenate, usually deeply umbilicate, with (9-)20-25(-36) rays. SEEDS narrowly ovoid, 2.5-3.2 mm wide and 3.5-5 mm long. [*N. polysepalum* Engelm.]. --Ponds, lakes and still to slow-moving water: Coconino, Navajo cos.; 2000-2250 m (6600-7500 ft); Apr-Sep (fr. Jun-Oct); Eurasia, but long-established in N. Amer.; Rocky Mt. region and w N. Amer.: AL and Yukon Terr. s to CA, AZ, and NM. Seeds and rhizomes a source of food.

**Nymphaea** L. Waterlily, Pondlily, Nymphaea, Fragrant Waterlily

STEMS ovoid to cylindric rhizomes, often sprouting freely. LEAVES glabrous or pubescent, elliptic-sagittate to orbicular, entire to spinose-dentate, the apices acute-tapered to truncate, the bases cordate to sagittate, the venation mostly radiate with a prominent midvein, glabrous or pubescent. FLOWERS floating or raised above the water surface, strongly to faintly odorous; sepals 4 (rarely 3 or 5), green or streaked with red; petals 7-40, showy, white, blue, red or yellow, in various shades; stamens numerous (20-700), multiseriate, the outer ones with broad petaloid filaments, the inner ones slender to filiform; staminodes present; pistils with 5-47 carpels, united or partially united; stigmatic disk broad, concave or almost flat, radiate; ovary multi-locular, ovules numerous in each locule. FRUIT a berry-like capsule, fleshy or spongy, ripening under water. SEEDS small, with a floating membranous bell-shaped aril.  $x = 14$ . --40-50 spp., nearly cosmopolitan. (Name from the classical water nymph, Nymphé). Wiersema, J. H. 1987. Syst. Bot. Monogr. 16:1-112.

1. Rhizomes erect; leaf margins slightly to greatly crenate; upper leaf surface green, blotched with brown, the lower surface purple to green with black dots; petals yellow ..... *N. mexicana*
- 1' Rhizomes horizontal; leaf margins entire; upper leaf surface green, the lower surface green to purplish without blotches nor black-dotted; petals white ..... *N. odorata*

**Nymphaea mexicana** Zucc. (of Mexico). Yellow Waterlily. --STEM with erect rhizomes, 1.9-30 cm long, 1.4-6 cm wide, densely covered between the leaf bases with long, light-colored hairs; plants reproducing asexually by stolons that in autumn become geotropic and bury their tips 20 cm or more in the mud, forming "brood bodies" (consisting of a row of 3-7 buds on one side, and a cluster of 12 or more fleshy roots 1.3-3.8 cm long on the other). LEAVES 10-20 cm in diameter, glabrous, orbicular to ovate, narrowly peltate, the upper surface of blades bright-green, blotched with brown (at least when young), the lower surface of blades deep purple or purplish green (green in aerial leaves), marked with black dots; margins crenate, wavy at base, nearly entire at apex; sinus slightly open, or the basal lobes overlapping; primary veins on lower surface scarcely visible. FLOWERS 6-13 cm diameter, faintly scented or odorless; peduncles 3-6 mm diameter, 16-150 cm long; receptacle with four swollen ridges; sepals 4, 3-7 cm long, 0.8-2 cm wide, elliptic, ovate to lanceolate, acute or obtuse, the inner surface yellow; petals 12-23, 2-7 cm long, 1.2-2.2 cm wide, elliptic, the apices rounded, bright-yellow, slightly purplish outside; stamens 50-60, stout, bright golden yellow, the petaloid staminodes mostly 2-2.5 cm long, 1-2.5 mm wide; carpels 7-10; styles short; stigma funnel-shaped, deeply curved. FRUITS spherical to ovoid, 2-2.5 cm in diameter. SEEDS globose, 2-3 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, very fine dull greenish-black appressed-hairy. [*N. flava* Leitn.].  $2n = 56$ . --Lakes, ponds and slow streams: Cochise, Pima, Pinal, Yavapai cos.; 1050-1150 m (3500-3700 ft); Apr-Sep (fr. Sep-Oct); FL, LA, TX; Mex., New Zealand. Production of "brood-bodies" is a vegetative reproductive method solely characteristic of *N. mexicana*.

**Nymphaea odorata** Aiton (odor, from the scented flowers). White Waterlily, Fragrant Waterlily, Pondlily, Nymphaea. --STEMS stout, horizontal, elongate, sometimes tuberous, rhizomes, mostly 2.5-3 cm thick, with a few stout persistent branches, pale in color, covered with a dense, short, black pubescence, the internodes 2-5 cm long. LEAVES 12-25 cm diameter, mostly glabrous, orbicular to oval, never peltate, coriaceous, entire or slightly emarginate at apices, the sinus usually narrow, the blade green, waxy above, green-tinged to purplish-tinged beneath; veins evident but not prominent beneath; petioles smooth or slightly pubescent, greenish-purple. FLOWERS 7-25 cm diameter, very sweet-scented; peduncles smooth, to 3 m long, greenish-purple, coiling 5-9 times in fruit; receptacle short, round, scarcely evident; sepals 4, 2-8 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, elliptic to ovate or ovate-lanceolate, usually purplish-green or purple on back; petals 17-32, 2-9 cm long, 1.5-3.5 cm wide, ovate to elliptic-lanceolate, slightly broadened upward, the apices obtuse or rounded, gradually tapering to subacute tips, white; stamens 55-106; petaloid staminodes 1-4 cm long, 2.5-3 cm wide, the outermost staminodes oblanceolate, acute, with one short anther cell; carpels 13-25; styles short linear. FRUIT leathery, 2.5-3.5 cm in diameter. SEEDS ellipsoid, 1.4-4.4 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, dark olive, smooth, shining, aril one-fourth longer than the seed.  $2n = 56, 84$ . --Ponds, lakes and

slow streams: Cochise, Coconino, Maricopa, Navajo, Yavapai cos.; 350-2100 m (1100-6900 ft); Apr-Oct (rarely producing fruits in our area); New World origin; throughout most of N. Amer., introduced into Eur. in the late 1700's. The White Waterlily group is very complex, and in need of work. Grown as an ornamental. Rhizomes a good food source. Williams, G. R. 1970. Michigan Bot. 9:72-86. More information is needed concerning the large pink- and white-flowered specimens collected along Arivaca Creek at Ruby Road (Pima co.); these are not *N. odorata*, but of an unknown introduced species.

#### NOTE FOR COLLECTORS

Preparation of complete collections including flowers (with notes of color), ovary cross-sections, fruits when possible, as well as upper and lower leaf surfaces and especially rhizomes is important for proper identification.