



Nymphaea lotus

Family name: **Nymphaeaceae**Common name: **Nymphaeaceae**

Local name: (ستيب , Suteib) (ام بانقيفا , Um Ban'geiga)



Wild, Native



Role in Biodiversity

In its habitat this plant act as a biofilter which captures and biologically degrades pollutants and silt from water. It thus enhances biodiversity.



Environment and Growing

Nymphaea lotus grows in aquatic habitats of tropical and subtropical regions. It prefers calm, shallow (<2 m) water, neutral to slightly alkaline pH. and medium or very low levels of nutrients.

Growth requirements:

- pH range 5-8
- Temperature tolerance range 15-30°C
- Full sun for at least 6 hours per day.
- Optimum water temperature about 21°C.



Reproduction and Communication

- Flowers are bisexual.
- Flowers opening nocturnally, many flowers not closing until late morning.
- Pollination occurs by beetles and bees.
- Can also reproduce by tubers and stolon formation.



Life span

3-4 years



Size

The prostrate rhizome legnth range is 20-50 cm long.

Parts

Unbranched, tuberous rhizome stem.

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Roots are numerous, fibrous and spreading

Leaves sharply toothed, hairy beneath, with many strong veins, 10-32 x 11-28 cm.

Flowers white, 10-18 cm. in diam, showy, sweet-scented.

Fruit 4-6 cm. in diam., globose, green.

Seeds are ellipsoid, with longitudinal ridges bearing papillae.

INTRODUCTION

Aquatic herb

Nymphaea lotus, the water-lily, is a floating herb native to Africa and specific areas in Europe. It is well known as good source of food, nutrition, and medicinal purposes. This species is characterized by cordate leaves arising from a submerged prostrate rhizome and white, solitary, large and showy, often sweet-scented flowers.

In Sudan, *Nymphaea lotus* is very common in the Nile River and its tributaries south of Khartoum. The seeds and fruits of this species are a source of food for many residents, especially those living near the river, and often compensate for the lack of sorghum in bad seasons.

LIVELIHOODS / CULTURE

Cultivation

This plant is wild and naturally distributed and propagated in shallow or slow moving water in rivers, lakes or canals.

Cultural Value

- The lotus flower meant a symbol of beauty and continuous life in the culture of people in Kush kingdom.
- Used as important food source for all communities around the White Nile in the White Nile state.
- Used as an alternative to sorghum and millet during the season of floods and rains that destroy crops, causing food shortages.

Medicinal and helath uses

Roots maceration is used to treat hangnail in North Darfur state.

Cultural Expressions

It appeared in engravings on the walls of temples, palaces, ancient vessels and the entrances to the pyramids, and jewelry.

THREATS

- Climate change and habitat loss.
- Human overconsumption of rhizomes and fruits.
- Floating leaves are damaged by some fungi and snails.

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