

LOTUS

Known for its aggressive growth, lotus may need to be repotted more often than other pond plants. Because the new growth of lotus is very sensitive, it must be handled gently to avoid damaging new shoots. It is more difficult to determine from surface observation when a lotus needs repotting. If you have had the plant more than one year, or you observed that it did not bloom well last season, it is likely ready.

- Gently pour out as much dirt as you can out of the container.
- DO NOT pull on the plant!
- Then gently rinse the soil away.
- You should find white tubers with hairy roots on the ends. Healthy tubers will be white to gray in color, and very firm. Others may be in decay.
- If the tuber is dark or soft, remove it or cut away the decaying portion. Leaving a decaying tuber adjacent to a healthy one can make the healthy one rot.
- Select a sturdy, solid round container, at least 18" or more across, and 6-8 inches deep.
- Place a 3" layer of clay or aquatic plant soil in the bottom of the container.
- Gently hold the lotus in place as you add soil to about one inch over the top of the tuber.
- Use one hand to put in soil, and the other to protect the sensitive shoots from damage.
- Place a medium size rock over the center of the tuber, small enough to avoid touching the new growth.
- Add additional small rocks to keep the soil in place, carefully avoiding the new shoots.