

Patterns of nature: a series of decorative plants. 3, Nymphaea alba.

Contributors

C.L. Bencard Ltd.

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**wellcome
collection**

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



PATTERNS OF NATURE: a series of decorative plants

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### *No. 3: Nymphaea alba*

*In his "Flowers Of The Field" Johns describes the White Water Lily as "the only British species, and perhaps the most magnificent of our native flowers".*

*Water Lilies are seen to the best advantage in the wild state in some clear, sunny pool or slowly moving stream. Their large heart-shaped leaves floating on the surface form a superb background for the blooms with their smooth, white petals and pale golden centres. The flowers, which form in the water, rise towards the light when ready to bloom and expand on the surface, generally towards noon. At nightfall they close and return beneath the surface.*

*Nymphaea alba is quite hardy and is easily grown in the smallest of ponds, provided it is planted properly and the water does not become foul. The roots should be planted in a shallow basket filled with a mixture of loam enriched with bonemeal and well-rotted cow dung. The basket should be placed in the bottom of a pond about eighteen inches deep and barely covered with water to start with. Then, as the crowns shoot and leaves appear, the depth of water can be increased and the leaves will find their way to the surface.*

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Colour photograph by John Markham, F.R.P.S.

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For peptic ulcer:

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C. L. BENCARD LTD.

PARK ROYAL, LONDON, N.W.10

Telephone: ELGar 6681

Telegrams: Bencarlond, Harles, London