

# "Just Add Water"

Articles and Photos by Soni Forsman

## Color of the year trends in the water garden

Living Coral is the color of the year (2019). Each fall the Pantone Color Institute announces the color that will be seen in everything from clothes to home and business designs in the new year. It bases this annual predication on its year-long analysis of worldwide trends and designs.

Living Coral is defined on the website [www.pantone.com](http://www.pantone.com) as 'An animating and life-affirming coral hue with a golden undertone that energizes and enlivens with a softer edge.' Beautiful words to entice me to incorporate some of this color in my life to feel peppy but calm. Wikipedia describes the color coral as 'reddish or pinkish shades of orange.' To have a little fun with this and take it into the water garden, I decided to look through photos of my waterlilies from past summers to see how many have flowers in shades of coral as described in the internet encyclopedia.

Hardy waterlily varieties include *Nymphaea* 'Wanvisa,' *N. Gregg's Beauty*, *N. 'Haunting Beauty,'* *N. 'Colorado'* and the third day flower of *N. 'Comanche.'* For the container water garden, the first day bloom of *N. 'Indiana'* and the third day flower of *N. 'Little Sue.'*

Over the years, I've probably written something about most of these selections except for *N. 'Gregg's Beauty.'* It was a new addition to our water garden last year. It is bicolor with the apricot/orange color of the sepals and outer petals qualifying it for inclusion in this article. The inner petals are a soft lemon color. It has dark bronze-colored pads with lighter mottling, the perfect background for the vivid flower colors. This waterlily was discovered growing in a pond at Perry's Water Gardens in North Carolina by Gregg Gibson, grandson of the late Dr. Perry D. Slocum. The natural hybrid was introduced in 1996.

Searching through the pictures confirmed what I observe each summer; flower colors vary from year-to-year. How vivid the color and the size of the bloom is always best the year it is divided and repotted. I use a good top soil containing some clay and dose the bottom third of the soil with fertilizer. A strict fertilizer regimen throughout the summer maintains the look.

These orangish waterlilies will mingle with others blooming in shades of red, pink, yellow and white this summer. Together, they will bring vitality and elegance to the water garden, making it a peaceful place.



*Nymphaea* 'Haunting Beauty'



*Nymphaea* 'Gregg's Beauty'  
standing tall above its dark mottled pads





*Nymphaea* 'Indiana' - changeable.  
First day flower to the left of reddish third day  
flower.

