

Water Forget-Me-Not

Myosotis scorpioides



Water Forget-Me-Not, *Myosotis scorpioides*

There are more than 70 species of forget-me-nots growing in wet and dry habitats around the world. This column is mostly about *Myosotis scorpioides*, the water or true forget-me-not.

It is a short plant with sprays of tiny blue five-petaled flowers with yellow throats. The flower spray is a stalk of many delicate flowers. Evenly spaced along the stalk, the flowers open from bottom to top. The flower spray emerges from a clump of dense oblong leaves. Water forget-me-nots like full sun but will tolerate some shade and bloom from May into October. Pinching off the spent flower clusters helps the plant stay compact and bushy.



Water Forget-Me-Not planted with Variegated Golden Sweet Flag, *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon.'

I use this little plant in container and table-top water gardens. Sometimes I plant it in a four-inch pot and tuck it into a small space at the edge of a container water garden. Most of the time, I use it as an understory plant, growing in the same pot with an upright marginal plant with a height of 10- to 24-inches. This spring I bought a four-inch container of forget-me-nots, divided it into three pieces for filler in three pots. I added a little aquatic fertilizer when planting and again in mid-summer. I place the planting containers with their tops just above the water level. This keeps the foliage out of the water and green. Foliage that languishes underwater may turn black.

The water or true forget-me-not is the most common species found in Minnesota and one of the three non-native Myosotis species growing in the state. It is considered invasive but it is not on the DNR's prohibited or regulated invasive lists. Please keep it out of and away from natural waterways so it stays off these lists.

Forget-me-nots are classic, representing true love, respect, fidelity and faithfulness. It is September's birth flower and represents certain National days and organizations including the flower of National Grandparent's Day and it is the emblem for International Missing Children's Day.

Water forget-me-not looks delicate but it is a tough little plant. It is the perfect plant to fill a small space while adding a whisp of blue color.