

# Sacred Lotus

*Nelumbo nucifera*

The sacred lotus was brought to the United States from Asia for use in water gardens because of its beautiful flowers, and it has now spread into the wild through much of the eastern U.S. The leaves of this floating plant can block sunlight through the water that other plants need to grow.

## What is a non-native or invasive species?

If an organism is introduced to an area where it is not historically known to live, it is considered non-native. A species is considered invasive if it establishes a breeding population and causes harm to the native ecosystem, human health, or the economy.

USGS Nonindigenous  
Aquatic Species (NAS)  
Database

