

# Aquarium Plants Care Guide

## Introduction

Use the following recommendations to care for your aquarium plants.

## Safety Precautions

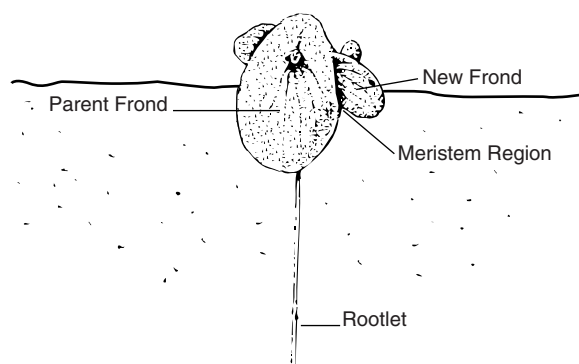
*Working with aquarium plants is considered nonhazardous. Please follow all laboratory safety guidelines.*

## Culturing

Upon receipt, rinse plants in dechlorinated tap water to remove bacteria and other contaminants. Remove any dead or discolored leaves or other organisms such as snails. Aquarium plants consist of banana plants, *cabomba*, hornworts, *Elodea*, *Lemna* (duckweed), *Sagittaria*, and *Vallisneria*. The general structure of *Lemna* (duckweed) is shown in Figure 1.

Aquarium plants prefer to live in a temperature between 18–24 °C. If the plants will be used within one to two days, place them in a holding tank of aged, conditioned tap water. For rooted plants, if long-term growth is desired, place 2" to 4" of coarse sand or aquarium gravel in the bottom of the tank. This is required for the roots to adhere properly. *Elodea* and *Lemna* are floating plants. Plants benefit if the aquarium has been operating for at least 4–6 weeks prior to their addition. This allows chemical cycles to equilibrate and necessary nutrients to accumulate in the water and gravel.

When ready to transplant, scoop a shallow depression in the substrate and arrange the plant's roots loosely in the depression. Refill the depression with surrounding gravel such as the plant's root crown is level with the gravel substance. Arrange plants eight to ten centimeters apart with taller plants towards the rear of the tank. Remember to allow plants and their roots room to grow. Cover the aquarium lightly to prevent evaporation.



**Figure 1.** Typical Duckweed Cluster

## Tips

- If the aquarium is also home to other animals such as fish or snails, be cautious not to over-feed them. Overfeeding pollutes the water with organic wastes which are harmful to both plants and aquatic animals.
- Check your aquarium daily for dead plants or animals. Always remove all wastes from the aquarium as it accumulates.
- Most aquarium plants need 10–12 hours of light per day. They thrive at a hardness of 4–12 dH and a pH of 6.5–7.2.

## Disposal

Please consult your current *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for general guidelines and specific procedures, and review all federal, state and local regulations that may apply, before proceeding. Do not release aquatic plants into local environments, species may be invasive. Dispose extraneous/unwanted plants according to Flinn Scientific Biological Waste Disposal Type VI, common garbage wastes.

The Materials required in the *Aquarium Plants Care Guide* are available from Flinn Scientific, Inc.

Catalog No.	Description
LM1130	Banana Plant, Rooted
LM1131	<i>Caboma</i> (Fanwort), Rooted
LM1211	Hornwort, Rooted
LM1132	<i>Elodea</i> , Rooted/Floating
LM1133	<i>Lemna</i> (Duckweed), Floating
LM1134	<i>Sagittaria</i> , Dwarf
LM1135	<i>Vallisneria</i> , Corkscrew
FB0210	Aquarium, All-Glass®, 5.5 gallons
FB0218	Aquarium Air Pump, Whisper® 40 Single Outlet
AP8373	Airline tubing, 10 ft

Consult your *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for current prices.