

MASI Horticultural Award Program

Founded January 1, 1992
- Revised February 1, 2016 -



I. PURPOSE

1. To promote and encourage the keeping and captive propagation of Aquatic Plants
2. To gather and disseminate information about Aquatic Plants, their cultivation, and propagation methods
3. To insure the availability of a variety of Aquatic Plant species for future generations of Aquarium Hobbyists

II. Definition

An Aquatic Plant is a plant species which, in the wild or natural state, can be found growing wholly submersed; growing emergent with its roots submerged; or floating; as a regular, normal occurrence required for its survival at some time during the course of one complete growing season.

III. ADMINISTRATION

1. The HAP chairperson shall serve at the discretion of the President and the Executive Council, and shall be appointed by the incoming President at the start of each MASI fiscal year (the beginning of the first General Meeting in July) for a term of one year. Said Chairperson shall be charged with the responsibility of maintaining and complying with the Rules of the HAP as set forth herein.

This Chairperson shall maintain accurate and complete permanent records. These records shall be maintained in a paper and/or an electronic file at the discretion of and within the means of the Chair; with an accurate, complete record available to the general membership upon written request either via a paper copy or through electronic media such as the club Website. If an electronic file is kept, separate accurate and up to date copies must be maintained to prevent the loss of all records.

2. The Chairperson shall assign Points as specified in the Rules, and shall review (and amend, as needed) these Rules and Points. The Chairperson is empowered to appoint trusted MASI members as HAP verifiers to help out as needed. Any disputes will be settled at the discretion of the Chairperson, with advice of the Executive Council if necessary. All such decisions rendered will be considered final. Submission of a propagation to the program signifies agreement with all rules below.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

1. Participants must be MASI members in good standing.
2. As a matter of ethics, plants must be OWNED and MAINTAINED by the entrant for at least 60 days at the time of vegetative propagation. Any plant submitted for the HAP MUST BE PROPAGATED IN THE ENTRANT'S OWN TANK OR POND. NEW GROWTH must be submitted for credit. For blooms, the entrant must own the plant for at least three weeks before the plant begins to bloom. In the case where plants are purchased with blooms, fruits, or seeds, those growths are ineligible for submission.
3. Entrant must identify the plant and include a citation for their identification. The HAP Chairperson will only confirm the identification and guide the entrant to sources for proper identification.
4. A completed HAP Report, including references cited for identification, must be filled out and both the plant (or photo in the case of blooms) and form submitted at the time of verification for each submission.
5. To receive Points for a Vegetative submission, entrant shall be required to donate their submission to MASI for auction at a general meeting or at one of the club sponsored public Auctions. For vegetative credit to be issued, stem plants should be submitted as a group of at least 5 stems 5" or longer. For floating plants, at least one cup of plants shall be submitted. For others, at least one identifiable plantlet shall be submitted. For vegetative credit for the genus Aponogeton, see special rule below. Blooms and Seedlings need not be donated for Points to be earned, but donations are always strongly encouraged. Blooms and seedlings may be submitted by photo.
6. All submissions shall be verified one time, except for submissions of a Seedling where the entrant shall submit entry for verification twice; once for the Bloom, and once when the Seedling has grown enough to be easily identifiable. All Seedlings submitted shall have roots, leaves, and be identifiable as to genus, at least.
7. No plant species deemed a non-indigenous invasive or nuisance species or a noxious weed by the State of Missouri Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be allowed for submission. Any entrant submitting such species BEFORE the plant is placed on such list will not have points or credit for propagation taken away, but no further submissions will be accepted. Refer to list of prohibited species later in this document for any questionable species.

V. PROPAGATION

Each species, Cultivar, Hybrid, or Varietal shall be eligible for up to 3 submissions – once each For Vegetative (V), Bloom (IB or OB), and Seedling (S) as defined below:

1. **Vegetative (V):** The asexual reproduction by natural means or human intervention. The Vegetative propagated plant must be able to survive on its own without the parent plant. Rhizome plants must include new growth with healthy rhizome, leaves and roots capable of surviving on its own. This includes, but is not limited to

- a. Cuttings (from leaves, roots, stems, etc.)
- b. Budding (plantlets and bulblets)
- c. Division
- d. Runners
- e. Layering
- f. Micro propagation
- g. Aponogeton special rule: A photo must be submitted of the plant prior to division, plus a second photo of the plants three weeks after division. Both plants must have leaves, corm and roots, and be capable of surviving on their own.

2. **Blooms (IB or OB):** Points are earned by bringing any Aquatic Plant into flower. Points for Blooms shall be awarded at the following rate

a. Indoor Blooms (IB) shall be awarded Points at the next Point level above the Point level assigned for the Vegetative propagation of the entry, save for the genus Aponogeton, which shall be awarded 10 points, regardless of species or location.

b. Outdoor Blooms (OB) shall be awarded Points at the same Point level assigned for the vegetative propagation of the entry, save for the genus Nymphaea, which shall be awarded 10 points for an Outdoor Bloom.

c. All Class D (20 Point) plants shall be awarded only 20 Points for a Bloom, Indoor or Outdoor, save for the genus Nymphaea as outlined in 'b' above.

3. **Seedlings (S):** Points are earned by raising plants from seeds (Seedlings) produced from Blooms grown by entrant and submitted for HAP verification. Blooms must be grown at least three weeks AFTER entrant has acquired plant. As a matter of ethics entrant cannot submit Seedlings grown from flowers either budded or opened on the plant at the time of purchase. Due to time constraints of the live of a Bloom, photos (either electronic or hard copy) or dried Blooms are acceptable for verification of a submission of a Bloom.

For seedling credit, entrant must submit four photos:

a photo of the bloom, the fruit, the seed and the sprouted seedling;
plus submit a minimum 250 word article to the Editor and the HAP chairman about how the entrant produced the seedling.

VI Prohibited and Dangerous Species

Certain plant species have not only become established in the wild, but have actually done so well that they are now considered a noxious weed or a nuisance species. Local, State and Federal Government agencies spend many millions of dollars every year trying to control them. No responsible hobbyist should ever keep, distribute, or discard any of these species in the wild or even down the drain. In fact, interstate distribution or sale and/or interstate transport of these species is illegal. These plants should be destroyed by burning. Composting is not an acceptable way to dispose of these plants.

The species below are on the Federal list. Currently, as of February 1, 2016, the State of Missouri List of Noxious Weeds only lists

Purple Loosestrife, (*Lythrum salicaria*).
Dydimosphenia, (*Didymosphenia geminata*).

Plants that are not locally prohibited, but are considered noxious invasives:

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
Curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
Common reed (*Phragmites australis*)

Possession, sale or any other type of distribution of any prohibited species, whole or in part, can result in federal penalties. Possession and distribution of a problematic invasive is not punishable by law, but is not responsible horticulture. While you may feel you can handle the plant responsibly, it may end up in the hands of someone who will not.

VII. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

The following achievement levels will be recognized upon accumulating the listed requirements:

Novice Aquatic Horticulturalist - (30+ Points) Only Novice or Junior Members of MASI as defined by the Membership Secretary are eligible to receive this award. at least 4 species with at least one from class "B" or higher.

General Aquatic Horticulturalist - (50+ Points)
at least 5 species with at least one from Class "B" or higher

Advanced Aquatic Horticulturalist - (100+ Points)
at least 10 species with at least two from Class "B" or higher

Senior Aquatic Horticulturalist - (200+ Points)
at least 20 species with at least two from Class "C" or higher

VII. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS (CONT.)

Master Aquatic Horticulturalist - (300+ Points)

at least 30 species with at least 1 species from Class "D"

at least 1 seed reproduction

Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturalist- (600+ Points)

at least 60 species with at least 2 species from Class "D"

at least 2 seed reproductions

write a series of at least 6 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for The Darter, or present one meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

Advanced Grand Master Horticulturalist- (1000+ Points)

at least 100 species with at least 3 species from Class "D"

at least 3 seed reproductions

write a series of at least 7 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for The Darter, or present two meeting length programs on some aspect of aquatic plant care

Senior Grand Master Horticulturalist – (1500+ Points)

at least 150 species with at least 4 species from Class "D"

at least 4 seed reproductions

write a series of at least 8 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for The Darter, or present three meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

Supreme Grand Master Horticulturalist – (2000+ Points)

at least 175 species with at least 5 species from Class "D"

at least 5 seed reproductions

write a series of at least 9 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for The Darter, or present four meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care.

Ultimate Grand Master Horticulturalist – (2500+ Points)

at least 200 species with at least 6 species from Class "D"

at least 6 seed reproductions

write a series of at least 10 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for The Darter, or present five meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care.

Articles and Programs

Articles or programs should provide details and insight on the husbandry conditions that resulted in a successful reproduction of an aquatic plant species, or on some aspect of maintaining planted aquaria or a water garden.

An article of minimum 250 words is required for each seed reproduction. The article shall be submitted to the MASI Editor for publication in The Darter. The program may be presented to the MASI membership at a general meeting or at the Annual Show/Workshop, as approved by the Program Chair and/or Show/Workshop Chair.