

ELODEA Caresheet

(Waterweeds)

Plant difficulty: MEDIUM – *Elodea* requires moderate monitoring and pruning

What is Elodea plant

Elodea is a genus of freshwater aquarium plants, classified in the frog-bits Hydrocharitaceae family. Elodea water plants are native the Americas. Originating from cool rivers, ponds, and creeks, Elodea is suitable as an aquarium plant, or in an outdoor pond. It can withstand a variety of conditions. PetWave has [Elodea bunches for sale](#) Australia.



Elodea aquarium plant bunches are the ideal background aquarium plant. Their long stems with spiralling dark green leaves make a great backdrop to your aquascape.

Where is Elodea banned?

Due to government environmental restrictions, PetWave **cannot** send live Elodea to Western Australia, Northern Territory, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. You can still add a background plant to your aquarium tank with an [Elodea plastic artificial aquarium plant](#).

What is Elodea used for

The long twisting stems of Elodea aquarium plants provide shade and hiding space for small [tropical fish](#), helping reduce fish stress. **Elodea is perfect for shy fish!** Elodea is a great food source for [goldfish](#), freshwater turtles, and [aquarium snails](#). Elodea also helps control algae, use excess nutrients in aquarium water, and aerate your tank with oxygen, leading to happy healthy fish and overall high water quality. Find out even more secret [benefits of live aquarium plants](#) vs artificial aquarium plants.

What does Elodea need to survive - Elodea how to take care

Elodea growing conditions

Elodea must remain completely submerged in aquarium water.

Regular aquarium water [pH tests](#), and appropriate pH control [water treatment](#), are recommended to maintain the pH level between 6.5 – 7.5, particularly when setting up a new aquarium.

While the temperature range for growing Elodea in an aquarium is broad, a [glass aquarium thermometer](#) will help monitor the temperature of your planted aquarium.

To boost the nutrients and benefits of having a Elodea aquatic plant, a liquid [aquarium plant fertiliser](#) should be used at least every two weeks.

How to dispose of Elodea aquarium and pond plants

Introduced aquarium plants can cause [significant damage to Australia's natural ecosystem](#). Elodea is a genetic water weed, *Never* dispose of Elodea where they could be washed into natural waterways or drains. Seal Elodea in a plastic bag and dispose in a garbage bin.

Temperature	10 – 28°C
Light	Medium
Ph range	6.5 – 7.5
Growth speed	Fast

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How to plant Elodea in an aquarium

Elodea substrate requirements

It is important to provide a 7-8cm layer of substrate at the bottom of your aquarium tank to protect your Elodea aquarium plants roots. Substrate is any form of loose material that an aquarium plants roots can grow in. Elodea can grow freely floating un-rooted as well.

Can Elodea grow in soil? - Can Elodea grow in gravel?

The aquatic plant Elodea can grow in a variety of substrate such as, [pebbles](#), [gravel](#), [sand](#), or aquarium soil. Find out more information aquascaping in our [how to set up a planted aquarium guide](#). At PetWave we have Elodea live aquarium plants for sale [as bare roots](#) to be planted in substrate.

To promote growth, plant your Elodea in substrate. Create a small hole in your chosen aquarium substrate. Place the Elodea plant in, and bury only the bottom of the plant. Bury your plant roughly 1-2inches deep. This will ensure your aquarium plants does not uproot and float. Space out each bunch of Elodea plant roots approximately 1inch apart. Elodea are fast growing aquarium plants, bunch them together to quickly start up a planted aquarium.

Important note: The Elodea growth rate is fast. Elodea plants may quickly take over small aquariums and shade smaller aquarium plants.

How to control Elodea - How to manage Elodea - Do I need to trim Elodea

Elodea aquarium plants must remain completely submerged, so it is important to monitor the height of your plants. Trim leaves with a sharp pair of scissors to your preferred height. You can re-plant the cut-off in substrate and a new plant will grow. Elodea should be given a couple of weeks to root in their substrate and settle before trimming.

The key to growing Elodea is controlling it

Propagation of Elodea Waterweed

Classified as a pondweed, Elodea aquatic plants are an invasive grower. You don't need to propagate the aquatic plant yourself. Leafy stems detach from the main plant, float away, root in the substrate and form new plants.

[Aquarium tongs](#) are a helpful tool when planting, handling, trimming, and replanting Elodea aquarium plants without putting your hands and arms in the tank.

