

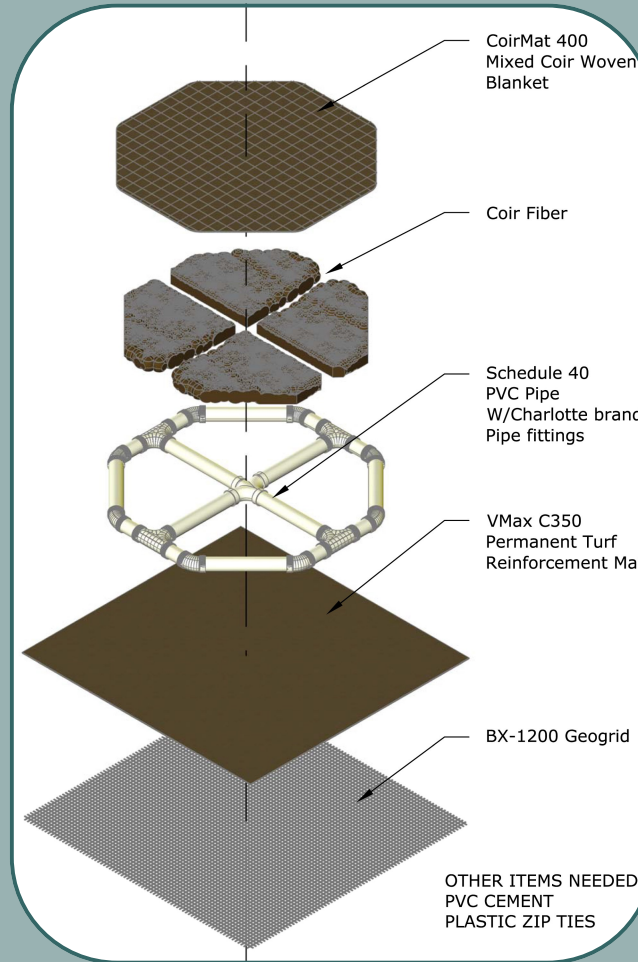
## What is a Floating Wetland?

Floating wetlands are structures that allow plants to grow hydroponically, which means the plants uptake nutrients from water rather than soil. Floating wetlands are used as an inexpensive method for water quality improvement and for improving aesthetics. They typically consist of a buoyant frame and a plant rooting material. Aquatic plants are carefully chosen for their nutrient removal effectiveness, aesthetics, or wild-life benefits.

## Suitable Plants for Kentucky

- Arrow Arum, *Peltandra virginicus*
- Black-Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Blue Flag Iris, *Iris virginica*
- Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Common Cattail, *Typha latifolia*
- Louisiana Iris, (hexagonae group)
- Pickerelweed, *Pontederia cordata*
- Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*
- Yellow Flag Iris, *Iris pseudocoris*

## Construction Materials



# FLOATING WETLANDS



**UK**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
KENTUCKY®

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

This brochure was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under §319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

# Benefits of Floating Wetlands

## Wildlife Habitat

Floating wetlands provide an island of habitat for visitors such as turtles, birds, butterflies, & more.

## Aesthetics

Native plants such as irises and cattails offer visual appeal.

## Resilient

Anchoring the floating wetland makes it resilient to storms and fluctuating water levels.

## Temperature Regulation

Floating wetlands provide an island of shade for aquatic life and help lower water temperature, which helps increase dissolved oxygen.

## Water Quality Improvement

Plant roots and the microorganisms that live on them improve water quality by filtering, consuming, and breaking down nutrients and organic matter.

## Inexpensive

Floating wetlands can be constructed with PVC pipe, coconut fiber and matting, and geogrids or construction fence, offering a relatively inexpensive option for water quality improvement.

