

Floating Island Specifications

1.0 Northstar Large Floating Island Specifications



The line of Northstar floating islands are ideal for long term island installation where it is not necessary to move islands. The islands lock together leaving only a few inches of water between each island. The islands are built to become part of large modular installations or remain as individual isolated islands. These islands are built with flexibility in mind allowing for numerous upgrades and modifications to be made to base island allowing for numerous uses.

The Advantage of Northstar floating Islands is in the simple but rugged design built to simulate a natural floating bog or fen. These islands are developed to include natural growing mediums that most wetland plants thrive in and allow for a robust planting area with a deep protected growing area to exist. These islands do not use synthetic growing mediums allowing for the soil microbial ecosystem and vascular plants used on the islands to function as they naturally would within a wetland ecosystem.

The initial planting and installation of the Northstar Floating Islands are included in the base price for the islands (excluding delivery cost). Our team of professionals has access to native plant nurseries as well as numerous other plant material sources allowing us to install plants on the islands and deliver the islands already planted. This means the only labour involved on site is launching the islands. Our field team (4 people) can launch over 300 islands (900 m²) in a day depending on the site access conditions.

1.1 Dimensions

The floating island is 1.22 m wide by 2.44 m long with two planting areas that are ~1.25m² in area creating a total planting growing area of 2.5m² within the island for plant crowns to establish while roots and shoots can extend over the 4-inch-tall walls to create a total area of ~3m² for plant growth

1.2 Growing Medium and Rooting Area

The standard island growing medium is lined with a non-woven geotextile fabric with a natural (organic) growing medium that extends at least 1 inch below the water and extends just above the water surface. Modified growing medium depths can be requested to create more or less terrestrial environments for plant growth. The standard growing medium depth is between 2

and 3 inches. This creates an emergent habitat type that results in poor nesting habitat for waterfowl and results in less damage to vegetation caused by wildlife.

Growing mediums can be modified to change:

- Soil Texture
- Nutrient holding capacity
- Depth

1.3 Flotation and frame

The Northstar floating islands are built from a rugged frame incorporating PCV coated grating and a hard-plastic shell. This creates a robust island that can carry hundreds of pounds of weight when necessary.

1.4 Other Options

There are numerous modifications that can be added to the Northstar islands depending on project needs. Some of the commonly used modifications include:

- 1) **Wildlife Protection Grates** – Utilizing a protection grate on the islands allows these islands to effectively exclude muskrats and other herbivores that can easily get on the islands and eat the establishing vegetation. Grating can be installed permanently or for temporary applications during establishment with removal occurring later.
- 2) **Nesting Platforms** – the islands are strong enough to allow for the platform to be built up into a floating nesting platform for waterfowl to nest away from predators on the shoreline
- 3) **Protection from Waves** – in some situation’s waves can cause damage to islands and on open areas where wind can cause wave action to damage the establishing plant material wave action. Instead of our standard growing medium configuration the soil medium is placed in a biodegradable bag that will prevent damage of waves during establishment. Once established the vegetation on the islands will be able to handle most standard waves in ponds and small lakes.







