



Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed

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All About Ponds

Seasonal Pond Care

Spring

- Clean pond thoroughly of trash and muck from the bottom of the pond
- Dechlorinate as necessary
- Set-up bio-filter if disconnected in the winter/or do major cleaning
- Prepare yourself for “green water” until your pond stabilizes
 - Your pond must begin balancing all over for the new year
 - DO NOT drain your water when it turns green
- Clean filter as often as necessary or required
- Begin feeding fish when water temperature reaches above 50°
 - Feed high carbohydrate foods
 - Feed higher protein foods when water temperature is above 59°
- Watch fish for any infestations/infections on fish as spring is a stressful time for them
 - Treat pond as necessary with medications
- During the last 2 weeks of April and the first two weeks in May, start adding microbes,
i.e. *Microbe-Lift* with a purge dose—then weekly for 4 weeks
- Add a dye—to slow down greenwater growth—once or twice for a month
- Add *barley straw* or *Algaefix* to control string/hair algae

Summer

- Keep dying leaves and spent flowers removed
- Continue cleaning filter weekly (if submersible filter pad requires cleaning)
- Divide lilies and water plants as necessary
- Propagate new plants as desired
- Thin water plants as necessary to keep them from choking out pond
- Fertilize plants once a month with aquatic fertilizer
- Net out water bugs and insects if overpopulation occurs
- Check plants and remove snail eggs from undersides of lily leaves and stems
- Continue feeding fish—follow five minute rule, but remember they like more food now
- Watch for fish spawning; keep an eye on females as they can be injured during this time
- Keep water levels at highest point as they tend to lose water quickly during hot periods
- Clean skimmer weekly

Autumn

- Keep all leaves skimmed off pond or use net to cover pond
Tannic acid from leaves turns water brown & is toxic to fish
- Clean filter as required
- Continue feeding fish, switch to higher carbohydrate foods & feed less
Stop feeding when water temperature reaches 50°
- Stop fertilizing plants
- Trim plants back to prevent decomposition of plant leaves in pool water
Hollow stems should be cut a bit above water level to prevent rotting
Prune lilies back to plants' crown and place in the deepest part of pond
Lower tender marginals to deeper part of pond

Winter

- Raise pump to higher level to keep water temperature at the bottom warmer
- Keep the pump operating to keep water open—this lets toxic gases escape
- Turn off & clean bio-filters as the bacteria does not live during the winter
Up-flow filters should be drained to prevent freezing.
If fish are active and surfacing, offer them a small amount of high carbohydrate food