

Water Garden Care Tips

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SPRING POND TIPS

When the water temperature reaches 45-60 degrees Fahrenheit, wake-up time for the pond begins. Now is the time to remove any debris that has collected in the bottom of the pond over the winter. Aquatic plants can be cleaned up at this time as well. Remove any dead leaves from the winter, and re-plant or separate before they are too actively growing.

It is also a good time to remove & clean any and all filter pads or other biological filtration media. It is best to simply hose them off until the water runs clear, or pressure wash. If you pressure wash, be sure not to remove all the bacteria on the filtration media as some of this is beneficial to the eco-system of the pond. Give the pond a dose of beneficial bacteria in powder or liquid form. This product is available at any pond store.

Start feeding the fish as soon as the water temperature reaches 55 degrees or more. Check with your local fish supplier for the proper food types. Spring typically is a lighter food than summer. Feeding once every other day is plenty. Too much fish waste will cause the water to appear murky.

SUMMER POND TIPS

The biggest problem in the summer months for your pond is the development of algae as the weather grows warmer. Green water and string algae can wreck an eco-system quickly. There are many products to control both of these problems.

For green water (suspended algae), use any brand of "water clearer" that is safe for wildlife & plants. It will take a little time to work itself completely thru the system. For string algae (filamentous algae), you can use a beneficial "bacteria with enzymes" to control. All varieties are expected to be in your pond, and even though bothersome, they are beneficial. As the pond ages, this will subside.

Summertime is when you have the greatest amount of evaporation. The surface area and the amount of splash created by falls & streams, play a big part in evaporation. It is common for a pond to lose 4-6 inches of water a week from evaporation particularly during the heat of the day. You will need to add water one (1) or more times per week depending on weather. There is an optional automatic fill unit available if your pond contains a skimmer.

FALL POND TIPS

As the year winds down, the pond does not. Fall is the most critical time for the pond. If you are in a wooded area, it is best to put a net over your pond. Leaves will add beneficial bacteria as they decompose, but they can also "poison" the water in abundance. If too many are allowed to break down, the water in the spring will look very muddy, and allow more surface algae to grow.

Fall is also the time to slow down on feeding the fish. Once or twice a week with store bought fish food will encourage them to eat more of the bacteria in the pond. This is insurance for spring start-up, and it is a better food for the fish.

WINTER POND TIPS

It is best to keep your water feature running year round. Even in the winter months when fish are dormant they still need oxygen. If you do choose to shut the pond down, you will need to install a de-icer and a bubbler to create oxygen.

LEAKS

If you suspect your pond liner is leaking, check the obvious signs first. Areas around streams, falls, or the pond edge that settle can cause water loss. Typically, water loss is a result of splashing, wicking or evaporation. A true leak is typically represented by the soil adjacent to the leak being saturated with water. Avoid walking through the pond and streams to prevent puncturing the liner with the stones placed in the bottom of the pond. The filtration installed in your water feature was selected to ensure that the right amount of water is circulated in order to maintain optimum biological balance. This means you should keep your pumps running at all times.

If for some reason your pump fails within the first year of installation, contact your sales representative immediately. See our Limited Warranty for more information.

More helpful hints can be found at <http://akehurst.com/hints.htm>

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