

Opening Your Pond for the Season

Clean debris from pond.

Water change (dechlorinators)

Start of filtration (biostarter)

Check fish visually for disease (treat as necessary)

Pre-season algae prevention (Barley straw, biopeat)

- a) 20% water change once a week for 3 weeks
- b) Siphon off bottom – use pump or wet setting on shop vac.
- c) Make sure filtration system is clean, no leaks or blockage.
- d) Check water fall and steams for holes or settling, especially on new ponds.
- e) Look for animal damage, digging dogs, raccoons, skunks, mice etc.
- f) If you have a UV light, check and/or replace bulb & gaskets. Clean the quartz sleeve.
- g) Water care.
 - Check your pond water before and after water change
 - Check water quality
 - Ph, GH, ammonia. (*Get ammonia test kit and show audience how easy it is.*)
 - Check your supply of water - i.e. Tap/well water for the same.
 - When adding water trickle in slowly.
 - Add dechlorinators – wait 24 hrs add filter.
- h) Add biostart to filter.
- i) Before turning on pump make sure everything looks OK, turn on and watch.

Water plant Feeding (when they start to ‘show’)

Repot plants into larger pots and add ‘pond tabs’. Slow release fertilizer tabs are specially designed for ponds. *There will be a seminar on water plants on Saturday April 26 at 11 A.M.*

Fish feeding

Do not feed until the water temperature is consistently 10 Celsius or higher (use a thermometer). *Feed lightly!*

- a) Feed once in the morning every few days at first.
- b) Feed the fish an easily digestible food with low protein
 - High plant material – low or no fish/animal meal in food.
 - *Sera spirulina* or *Koi Royal*.
 - *Laguna* premium with spirulina, wheat germ.
 - *Tetra* wheat germ.
 - Less waste produced – less nutrients for algae to grow.

Adding new fish and/or plants.

Do not empty your new fish into your pond until the water in the bag acclimatizes to within 4 degrees Celsius of your pond water temperature.

Hardy plants are Ok to add to the pond around mid – end of April. Tropical plants are not totally safe until around the 24th of May, when we hopefully will not receive any more frost.

Proper Use of Pond Chemicals

2 Types

- a) Preventative – Usually all natural.
- b) Curative – Chemical (short term cure of symptoms, long-term harm?) Hard to keep in balance.

“Ounce of prevention = pound of cure”

60% plant coverage – UVC light.

Algae

Prevention = ‘barley straw’, ‘biopeat’, ‘pond morena’, ‘deep water shade’.

Cure = ‘pond balance’, ‘pond clear’, ‘green away’.

Fish Disease

Prevention – Montmorillonite clay, high quality food (i.e. Spirulina) Fish vitamins, water changes.

Cure – Desafin, FGK, Omnisan, Fungus eliminator, etc.

- All the products we carry are ‘fish and plant safe’ when the directions are followed.
- It is best to stick to one brand of product during treatment.
- Check ingredients.
- Don’t panic. Let the products do their job. It may take 3 – 7 days for them to work.
- After treatment – clean up any algae, die off etc. Do a water change, add dechlorinator and bio starter.
- Treatments use oxygen; make sure you have adequate circulation and aeration.
- After a rain, pond water may go cloudy, leave it alone and it should dissipate after 3 days.