

SEASONAL POND CARE

SPRING

- Clean pond thoroughly
- 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
 - 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 degrees
 - feed high carbohydrate foods
 - Feed higher protein foods when water temperature above 59 degrees
- Watch fish for any infestations/infections on fish as spring is a stressful time for them
 - Treat pond as necessary with medications

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
- Watch plants for bug infestations on plants and treat as necessary
- 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

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 degrees
- 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
- Give pond a thorough cleaning to remove debris from bottom of pond

WINTER

- Raise pump to higher level to keep water still at bottom to keep the temperature warmer
- Can reduce the flow of pump - must keep pump operating to keep water open
 - there must be an opening in the water to let toxic gases escape
- Can turn off and 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 when you stand by pond, offer them a high carbohydrate food (small amount). Most likely they will not be interested in eating when water temperature is below 50 degrees.