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Water Gardening Tips & Myths

Clear Water Formula

One bunch of oxygenating plants per 2 square feet of pond surface.

One snail per square foot of pond surface area.

One inch of fish per square foot of pond surface.

Lilies and floating plants should cover 50% of the pond's surface area.

To figure the gallons of water in your pond

For a rectangular pond multiply depth x width x length x 7.5

For a Circular pond multiply depth x 3.14 x $\frac{1}{2}$ pond width x $\frac{1}{2}$ pond length x 7.5

To figure the liner size for a large pond

Liner Length = pond length + 2 feet + (2 x pond depth)

Liner Width = pond width + 2 feet + (2 x pond depth)

To figure the liner size for a small pond

Liner length = pond length + 1 foot + (2 x pond depth)

Liner width = pond width + 1 foot + (2 x pond depth)

General Pump Rules

Pump Gallons/Hour (GPH) = number of gallons in pond/2

Fish Feeding Rule of Thumb

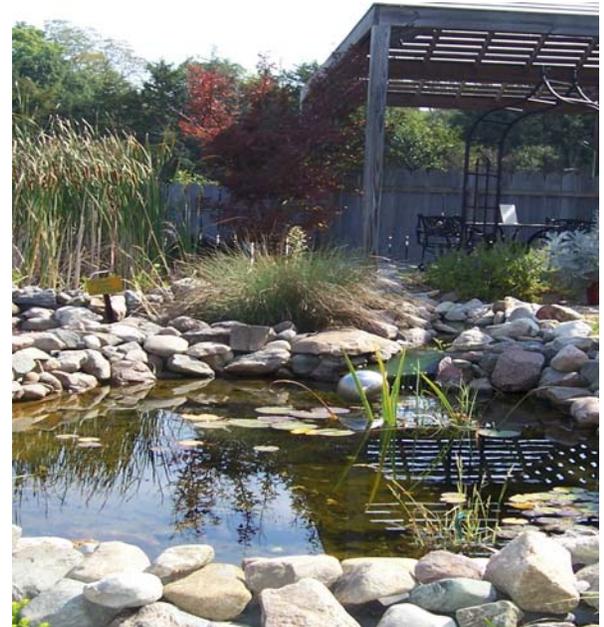
Feed as much food as fish will eat within five minutes twice daily.

Plant Feeding Rule of Thumb

In the summer use one fertilizer tablet every two weeks for good lily bloom.

Spring Start Up

As soon as the weather begins to break and most hard freezes are past, bring the hardy plants up from the bottom and place them at their proper depth. This is a good time to take some water from the pond and replace it with fresh water. When the last frost is past replace or replant the tropicals. Don't panic over fish fungus in early spring, it's common.



Fall Cleanup

In mid September place netting over the top of your pond to catch leaves and blowing debris. Fall is a good time to clean the pond. After the leaves have been cleaned up remove the netting and debris. Lower the water level. Either catch the fish and put them in a container with pond water, or lower the water level and leave the fish in with enough water so they can still breath. Clean out the much and dead leaves from the pond bottom. Do not scrub the sides. The algae growing on the sides will help to feed the fish in the spring and hold down the floating algae that contributes to the pea soup that can develop before the plants have grown enough to compete for the nutrients. This also will cause the pond water to clear up faster. Refill with water and add fish back in.

Winter Storage

In the fall as the plants begin to yellow, the hardy plants should be trimmed back and placed in the bottom of the pond to winter over where the water does not freeze solid. Tropicals will have to be disposed of unless you have a dark cool place to store them in sphagnum moss until spring or a inside fish tank to place them in. Place your pond heater in the pond to keep a small hole open when the water freezes over. This will let gases escape from the pond.

Myth

Small water features are less work.

Actually as water features get larger they become easier to maintain because they are able to achieve ecological balance easier.

Myth

Algae should be kept out of the pond.

Green algae, in proper proportion, is beneficial plant life. Fish eat it, and it's part of the ecology of any living, healthy pond. To much algae is caused by too much sunlight, which is why a well-designed natural pond includes shade sources from land-scaping and aquatic plants.

Myth

Water gardens are breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes breed in still, standing water. However a well-designed water garden has water flow and support fish, frogs and other wildlife that are predators of mosquitoes.

*Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.*

