

POND FAQ'S

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM POND DEPTH NEEDED FOR FISH?

The minimum depth for fish is 18 inches. Pond fish are cold water fish and if the water isn't deep enough they may overheat and die, the maximum water temperature should not exceed 72°F (22°C). 18 inches is also the minimum depth if you are planning on keeping the fish in the pond over winter. Pointing the output of your pump upwards and using a pond de-icer will keep a section of the pond open with surface disruption for proper gas exchange.

DO I NEED TO DECHLORINATE MY WATER?

Yes, in the past water was treated with chlorine which would break down in sunlight over a month or so; however water is now treated with chloramine which takes several years to break down. Using dechlorinator is essential if you want to keep fish and live plants in your pond.

WHEN CAN I ADD FISH TO MY POND?

Fish can be added to a pond as soon as the water temperature is 10°C (50°F). If fish from Paradise or fish that have been over wintered inside a home are added to a pond under 10°C the shock in temperature difference can be very stressful which can lead to sick fish and possible death.

HOW MANY FISH CAN I HAVE?

The general rule for how many fish can be in a pond is 1 inch of fish per square foot of surface area. With proper filtration you can add more fish, about 2-3 inches of fish per square foot of surface area. In general, like an aquarium, you want to add fish slowly, about 20% of the maximum capacity at a time, leaving a week before adding more.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I FEED MY FISH?

Feed fish every second day, the amount they can eat in 1-2 minutes and scoop out any excess food.

Do not feed fish if water temperature is under 10°C (50°F), fish go into a hibernation state below this temperature and feeding them can actually cause intestinal blockage which can lead to death. Feed a spirulina based food for temperatures between 10-15°C, this will help with digestion.

WHEN CAN I ADD LIVE PLANTS TO MY POND?

Live plants can be added to a pond once the water temperature reaches 15°C (60°F). If there is a frost warning it's best to bring the plants inside overnight so they don't die.

HOW DO I GET RID OF GREEN WATER?

Green water is caused by floating algae and other suspended particles in the water. There are many solutions to this problem.

IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS

The best solution is a **UV sterilizer**, pond water passes through it and the UV rays kill the algae. The initial cost is a little bit more but they require the least amount of work and will pay for themselves over time. The bulb should be replaced once a season to ensure optimal performance, the UV rays decrease over the life of the bulb.

Clear Fast is a quick fix. It will clump up all the small particles so they can be caught by the filter (having a filter is required for this product). It's important to clean out the sponge on the filter 24 hours after adding clear fast as the caught particles will start to break down and released back into the water. This is a temporary solution and if nothing else is done the problem will come back.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Peat Granules or Liquid will turn the pond water an amber color. **Blue Pond Dye** will turn the water a blue color. Both of these solutions prevent the sun light from penetrating the water as much which will reduce algae growth.

Barley Straw Pellets can be added, they should be put in an area with good water flow, either in a filter or near a waterfall. As they break down they release an enzyme which will prevent the growth of algae. It takes 2-3 weeks to start working and will last 3 to 4 months.

Bare Rooted Live plants (floating, oxygenators) will compete with algae for nutrients, so having lots of live plants will reduce algae growth. Floating and potted plants will also block some sun light from entering the pond which will also help reduce algae growth.

Phosphate Control can also be used. It removes phosphates from the water, algae requires phosphates to grow so this will slow down algae growth.

Bio-Sludge Control can be used to break down surface algae, organic solids, and pond sludge. This is safe for fish and live plants.

Floating Lily Dispenser dispenses bacteria into your pond which will compete with algae for nutrients.

Pond Clean is a powder that you sprinkle the edge of your pond which will break down stuck on algae. Using a brush to clean off the algae from the surfaces will enhance the effects.