



SPRING POND PREP GUIDE

PRODUCTS

- Spring & Fall Clean Packets
- Spring & Autumn Fish Food
- Muck Buster
- Pond Cleaner
- AquaFix
- Barley Pellets or Bales

FISH CARE

Begin feeding your fish and enjoy. You can begin feeding your fish when water temperatures remain at 50°F or higher. With water temperature at 50 to 65°F you can feed your fish once or twice a week. A cold water food is a wheat based diet ideal for feeding during colder periods of the year. Fish foods can contain Vitamin C and brewer's yeast to promote fish development and natural nutritional supplements designed to improve disease resistance.

If you do have fish I recommend adding pond salt to fight off bacteria infections and parasites. During the spring weather your fish's immune system is not up to par so during the spring keep a good eye on your fish to catch anything early.

It's finally here, Spring!

The air is fresh and clean, birds fill the air with song, spring flowers start to make their appearance, and with water temperatures consistently above 40°F for a week or more we can start our ponds up for another enjoyable season. Below you will find the steps to lead you through the cleaning and start up process of your pond.

- 1** Clean up the surrounding area. Rake up all the sticks and leaves from the surrounding area to prevent them from being blown into the pond once the pond has been cleaned. It is also time to remove the pond netting used over the winter to keep leaves out. Remove debris from the pond. Use a skimmer net to remove any floating debris. For debris on the pond bottom use a leaf net and/or a pond vac.
- 2** When Water changes are needed. If your pond has minimal debris and sludge buildup, perform a 25% water change to refresh the water. With any debris and/ or sludge buildup there will be elevated levels of toxins. So, a 25% water change is always a good way to refresh the pond water. When adding new water, always add a beneficial water conditioner to release chlorine and chloramines from city water and neutralize heavy metals from city and well water.
- 3** Clean and place water plants. Retrieve from the deep the plants you wintered over, clean off any debris, cut back dead stems, being careful not to harm the crown of the plant, and set them in their proper places. Spring is an excellent time to divide and repot, with the exception of early blooming plants such as Iris's. When dividing, make sure to keep the crown above the soil line, especially with water lilies.
- 4** Starting in late April, or early May you can use slow release plant tabs to fertilize your plants. Check filters and reconnect pumps. If the filter pads or skimmer pads were not cleaned last fall, they should be cleaned prior to starting up the system. Do not over clean the filter pads or use any form of soap, or bleach. This is the best time to inspect and replace old worn out filter pads. Two great choices are the polyester pads or the long lasting Matala filter material. If you have tubing that was disconnected over the winter or ball-valves that were opened up, be sure to reconnect and make adjustments prior to turning on the pumps.
- 5** Add important water treatments. Getting your pond's beneficial bacteria levels up early in the season means fewer challenges later. Look for a cold weather bacteria (Spring & Fall Clean Packets). This will work in cooler weather until your pond is consistently above 60deg. Then switch over to a summer bacteria (Muck Buster and Pond Cleaner)

This will be a good guide to use to get your pond up and running to have a successful year. The goal is to spend a lot more time enjoying your pond than working on it.