



Winterizing Your Pond

POND NETTING will help keep leaves and debris out of the pond. Stretch the net tightly and use anchor pins around the edges to hold it in place.

WHAT SHOULD I FEED MY FISH? When the pond water drops below 70 degrees, start to feed the fish a "Fall" formula fish food or Wheatgerm. For transitional season feeding, fish need higher carbohydrate and vegetable content for optimum metabolic efficiency and minimal waste. **Stop feeding fish entirely** when the water temperature drops to 45-50 degrees. A good pond thermometer is necessary to know what and how to feed and to your pond and fish healthy.

WATER TREATMENT: Treat your pond with Microbe-lift Autumn/Winter Prep to help reduce the buildup of dead leaves and organic sediment all winter long. This product contains cold water bacteria and will continue to provide sustained biological activity even under 55 degrees. This creates a healthy pond environment.

DON'T LET YOUR WHOLE POND FREEZE SOLID!! Ice traps harmful gases in your pond. A hole is necessary to let these gases escape. The warmest water in your pond is on the bottom and fish will go there to hibernate. The coldest water is on the top where the ice forms. A floating pond heater will help keep a hole in the ice so your fish receive the oxygen they need and harmful toxic gases can escape. Holes in the ice are critical for maintaining a toxic free environment for fish living under the ice.

PLANT CARE: All hardy plants can be cut back to within a few inches of the crown and placed in the deepest part of the pond. If necessary repot with water gardening soil. Tropical plants are not able to withstand temperatures below 50°. They should be brought indoors, placed in a sunny location and kept moist. Tropical bulbs and tuberous plants (e.g. tropical water lily) should be removed from the pond and allowed to dry slowly. When dried, the tubers can be lifted out of the plant basket and the remaining leaves trimmed off. Rinse off the soil and place them in damp sand or peat moss. Wrap them in newspaper and store in a cool dry area until spring.

PUMPS AND FILTERS also require some fall maintenance. If you think that it may freeze, it is best to disconnect your pump and bio-filter for the winter months. In order to prevent breakage make sure that there is no water left in the filter and hoses. If your pump is not going to run, it is best to remove it from the pond. Place the pump in a bucket of water and put in a place where it will not freeze.

The UV unit should be cleaned and brought in for the winter storage. Make sure all water is drained out of it.

Following these few simple guidelines will help to ensure a healthy pond through the dormancy of winter. In the spring your pond will be ready for the next active season.