

*Full of advice
on caring for
your pet*

Your guide to
Pond Fish



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Are you ready?

Fish make great pets. They will add plenty of vibrant colour and movement to your water garden, giving you hours of enjoyment as you watch them swim around.



Fish are relatively easy pets to look after, but they still require a certain amount of commitment, time, money and knowledge throughout their life.

There are a variety of pond fish available, some of the most popular being goldfish and koi carp.

Selecting your Pond Fish

What to look for? Healthy fish should have clear eyes and undamaged fins. Their scales should be intact and parallel to the body. There should be no sign of lumps, holes, white spots or growths on the body. They should be active and swimming easily around the water. It is advisable not to select fish from a system that has contains any sick specimens.

How many fish - The size of your pond will be the factor determining how many fish you can accommodate. It is important not to overstock your pond as fish produce waste that is potentially toxic to them.

Do not over feed your fish

Pond requirements

Pond requirements - Ponds should be at least 2ft (60cm) deep with as large a surface area as possible. Deep ponds are important as they help the fish to survive cold winters. Also, larger volumes of water have a more stable temperature, which is beneficial to your fish. The larger the pond the more likely it is to achieve a natural balance of plant life. This is important because the plants help the fish to survive and flourish with the minimum of attention needed from you. They also provide cover and assist oxygenation. You should consider investing in a filtration system to help maintain a healthy pond.

Introducing fish into your pond

Be sure to handle your fish with care as handling, transportation and introducing them into your pond can cause them extra stress. Introducing your fish into your pond must be done slowly and carefully. Place the bag of fish on the water and let it float in the pond for approximately 20 minutes to match the water temperatures. After about 20 minutes you can gradually introduce your fish into the water with a soft net, keeping any handling at a minimum.

Pond water treatment - Before adding your fish to your new pond make sure you treat your pond with water treatment to eliminate harmful chlorine or chloramine from the water, so making the pond water safe and neutralizing toxic metal ions before they can harm your fish.

Feeding your pond fish

Depending on the water temperature, pond fish have different nutritional needs and feeding habits. At water temperatures of 10°C (50°F) or above, your fish will feed up to four times a day, but only as much as they can eat in 2 minutes. It is advisable to feed your fish in small portions so that everything is eaten, resulting in less waste and pollution.

In the winter when the temperatures drop below 7°C (45°F), your pond fish will require no food. At temperatures below freezing your fish will become dormant.

Overstocked ponds create unstable water conditions

Which food - Your local Jollyes will be happy to advise you on suitable feed for your pond fish.

Other Considerations

Health - Check your pond on a daily basis so that any problems can be caught straight away.

Fish can suffer from illnesses at one time or the other so it is important to know how to prevent them.

1. Choose healthy, active fish for your pond.
2. Buy fish in small groups and slowly build up your fish community.
3. Acclimatise your fish correctly.
4. Always condition new water properly with water treatments.
5. Test your water on a regular basis.
6. Feed your fish regularly with a high quality fish feed. Do not over feed.



Ponds in winter - It is important to remember that your fish will stop eating in the winter. Check that your pond is ready for the winter as if it is not, you will have to bring your fish inside to be kept in a tub or an aquarium. There are many factors to consider when preparing your pond for winter, such as using a heater or aerating system. Appropriate research must be done to ensure your pond is ready for the winter.

Please note that keeping pond fish is a complex subject. This information guide is intended as a basic beginner's guide only and it is not possible to cover details of different types of fish, their compatibility with each other, common diseases and varying needs. We recommend that you purchase a good book to ensure that you have all the sufficient knowledge to enjoy successful fishkeeping.



Koi carp need a specialist food

Shopping Checklist

The following items are needed to build a new pond:

- Rigid or flexible pondliner
- Water treatments and test kit
- Pond pump and filter
- Net
- Suitable food
- Book on Pond fish care

It is now time to sit back and enjoy your pond.

For further information contact:

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