

Water Gardening



Site Selection:

- The site should be as level as possible; avoid an area where ground water or surface runoff may pose a problem.
- The site should get 5-6 hours of sun a day.
- The pond should not be located directly under any tree which can create organic waste that may be toxic to fish.
- Electrical outlets should be in close proximity if pumps and lighting are to be used.

Type of Pond:

Many designs are possible using liner ponds. Fiberglass pools are easy to install and durable. Both liners and fiberglass pools must be set in a bed of 1-2" of sand to prevent puncture. It is also essential that they be level at the water line.

- A good average depth is 18-24" if goldfish are to be overwintered.
- Use the biggest pond your site and budget can accommodate. The bigger the pond, the easier it is to care for.

Determining the Liner Size:

Length of pond + (2 times the depth) + 2 =
Length of the liner

Width of pond + (2 times the depth) + 2 =
Width of the liner

Filters and Fountains:

- In a well-stocked pond the plants will maintain a natural balance and clear water.

If filtration becomes necessary, the filter system chosen should turn over the entire volume of the pond every 2-3 hours (i.e. 300 gallon pond needs a 150 GPH pump).

- Pool volume in gallons = Length x Width x Depth x 7.48.
- Mechanical vs. Biological filtration: A mechanical filtration system uses a filter media to drag solids out of the incoming flow of water. When the filter becomes dirty, you simply remove it and clean off any sediment. A biological filter, on the other hand, is designed to naturally balance the pond through the use of aerobic bacteria that flourish in oxygen-rich conditions like those in a pond. These bacteria convert the toxic ammonia (created by the decomposing organic wastes) into less-harmful substances that are recycled in the "nitrogen cycle".
- Fountain heads and statuary fountains may also be incorporated into your filter system. They are aesthetically pleasing and provide the pond with valuable oxygen.

Planting Your Pond:

- Clear Water Formula

For each square yard of surface area, you should have:

Two bunches of oxygenating plants
One medium to large water lily
One dozen snails and two fish (4-5")

- Approximately 60% of pool surface should be covered when plants are mature.
- Do not place water lilies too close to a fountain or waterfall, as their foliage will not tolerate constant splashing.

Stocking Your Pond with Fish:

- Tadpoles, snails and fish will feed on algae and keep the insect population low. As a general guideline, 1-2" of fish are required per square foot of pond surface area.

