THE BACKYARD CONCEPT

"Create your own paradise"

Almost Spring Pond Tips

Spring is on its way. In a few short weeks your pond will begin to come alive. There a few tasks that should be done during this time of year so your pond will look its best.

Clean Out the Pond

Not every pond will need to be cleaned out every year. If you have been diligent about keeping leaves and other debris from collecting on the bottom of the pond throughout the year, you may not need to clean out your pond. However, if mud and debris have built up in your pond, spring is the time to clean it out. See pond clean-out steps.

Plant Maintenance

Spring is the best time for replanting or controlling plant growth. Redesigning the plant layout is best done in the Spring before the plants begin to come into growth. When the water temperature begins to warm, lift and divide overcrowded plants and remove all dead foliage. Spring is also the best time to introduce new plants into your pond.

Fish Care

Begin feeding fish after the water temperature exceeds 50 degrees but begin gradually. The fish have been hibernating during the winter and they will be slow to begin eating again. It is also critical that you check the ammonia and nitrate levels of the pond during this period and make appropriate adjustments.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO CONTROL ALGAE

MIKE SAYS... ADD THIS NOW!!

ECO BLAST (DEBRIS REMOVER)

SAB EXTREME (DEBRIS PREVENTION)

AQUACLEARER LIQUID BACTERIA

ECO BARLEY

ECO TABS (FERTILIZER)

Pond Cleanout Equipment List

Holding container for fish

Pump to remove water from pond.

Flexible Hosing to direct water away from pond

Garden Hose or Pressure washer

Fertilizer Tabs for plants

Declorinator

Bacteria

Ecofloc

Mike's Message

Can you have a water garden without plants? I don't think so. That would be like a car without wheels. Yes, a garden requires plants, and that includes water gardens. The one difference is that a water garden conversation revolves around aquatic plants. Plants serve a very important role in your pond's eco-system. I want to briefly discuss a couple of very important roles that plants play.

1. From a practical stand point... fish excrete waste ammonia (ammonium) which is broken down by bacteria in our ponds and filters. Bacteria convert the ammonia into nitrites, then nitrates. Plants absorb nitrates for one of their food sources.

2. Plants also help control ALGAE. Plants compete with algae for nutrition that is available in the pond. If there are enough plants in the pond vying for the nutrition, the algae are minimized into a non-problem in the midst of naturally clean, clear water.

Happy Pondering!

Mike 'The Pond Man' Marcom,
Certified Aquascape Contractor
Owner, Backyard Concepts

Pond Clean Out Steps

It can be messy and time-consuming but it is not that difficult to clean out your pond. Warning: If you need to enter the pond during the cleaning process, be careful not to puncture the liner. IMPORTANT: DO NOT BEGIN THIS PROJECT UNLESS YOU CAN FINISH IN ONE DAY.

Turn off the pump. Siphon out water and reduce the water level to about one-half the natural level. Put part of this water into a temporary container (small children's pool or barrel) that will hold the fish.

Remove the fish and place them gently in their temporary home, making sure it is in a shaded area.

Remove all the Lilies and other potted plants from the pond.

Continue to siphon all the water out of the pond.

Remove the heavy debris by hand.

With the siphon running, begin spraying down rock and liner with clean water. This will take the majority of the time. As you clean, the siphon (we use a pump with flexible hosing) will remove the dirt and debris. You will do this until the water begins to run clear.

Remove the pump or siphon and allow the pond to begin to refill.

Fertilize the Lilies and return them to the pond. Other plants may need to be repotted, then fertilized.

Remove the filter material and spray it clean. You will not remove all the debris from the filter.

Once the pond has reached the correct level, turn on the pump.

Add declorinator to the water. Follow the label instructions

Return the fish to the pond but do not add the old water into the clean pond.

The pond may be slightly murky after the clean-out but it should settle down and look great within 24 hours. Ecofloc will help this process.

Good Luck! If this looks like more of a mess than you want to tackle, give us a call for a **clean-out.**

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For more pond info check out our website at: www.backyardconcept.com