



LANDMASTERS

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SPRING POND MAINTENANCE

1. Test your water for nitrites, ammonia, and pH. All samples should be drawn first thing in the morning and from at least 18" below the pond surface.
2. We suggest a partial water change (25%) and removal of the decaying sludge which has accumulated during the winter. It is important that this be done before the weather warms significantly to minimize algae and the release of harmful ammonia. If you have lots of sludge, debris or leaves at the bottom and have fish, we recommend starting your pump to oxygenate the water. Add bacteria such as Eco-fix, Clear Pond Dry or Microbe-lift and wait a week before removing the debris.
3. While the water is low in the pond you should pull up your marginal plants and put them on shelves. Raise your water lilies to within six inches of the ponds surface to hasten the development of blooms. Lilies normally need to be divided every two to three years. Use a specially formulated aquatic soil that prevents murky water and has nutrients which enhances the plants growth. We suggest adding an akwatic lily or marginal plant feeder so that you only have to feed your plants once a year. Move the lilies to approximately 18-24" below the surface and away from moving water once the leaves start developing.
4. If you have not already done so, install filters, sterilizers, and pumps removing any debris from the intake. Wash or replace your filter media. Clean the UV clarifier sleeve, replace the bulb every two seasons, and then turn on. If you have a skimmer, clean out with a hose to remove any debris from the filter media left over from the fall and winter.
5. The fish will begin looking for food when the water temperature is above 45 degrees Fahrenheit. You can begin feeding them, sparingly at first, when the temperature reaches 50-55 degrees. Once they become more active, they can be given as much food as they are prepared to eat within five minutes, as their resistance to disease following winter dormancy will be at its lowest. It's important that the food offered in early spring is of high carbohydrate, low protein formula to aid in digestion. Check the fish closely for signs of disease, stress, bacterial and or fungal infection.

6. After completing a water change, add bacteria and continue the dosage according to label directions. Add Stress Coat, since it will remove the chlorine and adds aloe vera to the water, which enhances the fishes slime coat. We suggest that you add pond salt to your pond as a preventative treatment to ward against fungal or bacterial infections. Pond salt doesn't dissipate from the water but more needs to be added after a water change. Use a salt pen to check the level in your pond – too much can be harmful to plants, too little results in electrolyte loss, poor gill function, low oxygen, and high carbon dioxide levels in fish.
7. Add a flocculent such as Accu-clear to help remove the single celled algae and suspended particles in the pond water that are stirred up when you are putting in your filter and pump, removing debris, or pulling up your plants. The particles will drop to the bottom of the pond and the enzymatic bacteria will consume them. It is alright to add both the flocculent and bacteria at the same time.
8. Once you have done all the above, again test your water for pH, nitrites, salt and ammonia.
9. As soon as the temperatures start to moderate, and your pond is around 55-60 degrees, you should add the oxygenating plants such as anacharis. These plants are important in minimizing “green pond” because they compete with the algae for the nutrients that cause the algae bloom. When the water temperature is consistently above 70 degrees, you can add or return to your pond the tropical plants such as cannas and water lilies. You can also add floating plants such as Water Hyacinth.
10. We recommend following the label directions on all your additives, add the bacteria as directed and test the water weekly to prevent poor water quality which can harm your fish and plants. Remember water clarity doesn't always equate to good water quality.
11. We suggest you know the number of gallons in your pond. The formula to calculate them is: Average Length x Average Width x Average Depth x 7.5 = Number of Gallons. Adding a thermometer to help you more accurately determine the right time to begin and cease feeding your fish and adding your plants.