

Fall Pond Maintenance

So fall is upon us once again. Soon winter will be here, but for the moment we have beautiful colors surrounding us and we can enjoy a few more nice days. Fall brings with it just a little bit of garden work before everything goes to sleep for the winter. Now is the time to plant fall bulbs! They are a beautiful way to wake up your yard in the spring. It is such a nice surprise when the bulbs you planted months ago start to push their way into the sunshine. Hurry into the store because the bulbs are going fast! Fall is also a great time to plant a few more trees or shrubs. If there is something that you still want or your yard needs some color this time of year there is still plenty of time to plant a few more things. In fact we have over 500 cedar trees on their way here, so if you are planning to plant a hedge then now is the time to do it!

If you have a pond then you need to start thinking about the winter. On the next page is a list of the fall maintenance that needs to be done. Doing these things will ensure that your fish have a happy winter and will be here to greet you in the spring.

So we hope to see you this fall at the nursery. We will be open all winter so if you need anything or have any questions just come by and visit. We might even have that perfect Christmas present for the pond enthusiast on your list. We hope that you have a wonderful fall and Thanksgiving!

Your Pond Guy,

Quinton Freeman

Fall Maintenance Check List

- Cut back all your plants to ground level.
- Stop feeding your fish. They should not be feed after the temperature drops below 50 degrees. They go to sleep in the winter just like bears and their digestive systems slow down. They don't need to eat. If you just have to feed them then make sure that it is low temperature food. Low temp. food should be used when the temperature is consistently between 50 and 60 degrees. After 50 degrees no food.
- If your pond is looking really bad then do a clean out. This would be just like the spring cleanout. If you need the details on a spring cleanout then come by the store and grab a list.
- You need to decide what you are going to do for the winter. You have two options. First you can leave your pond running all winter and use the waterfall as your aeration. This should also keep a hole open in the ice, just make sure that you check it occasionally as you don't want it to freeze over completely. This is perfectly safe for your pump. We left ours at the store running all winter last year and it was fine. Your second option is to take the pump out of the pond and provide aerators for the fish. You will also need a pond heater. This doesn't heat the water it keeps a hole open in the ice so that gas exchange can take place. If you choose to take the pump out then you will need to put the pump in a bucket of water in a place that it will not freeze over. Either option is fine; it is just up to you.