

Something Fishy

Summer is well on its way the garden and pond are finally finished, OK its never quite finished. The garden is alive with brilliant colours and the lawn is lush and green with neatly trimmed edges. The pond is at its prime clear to the bottom, the lilies are in full bloom and the marginals are rich with life. But there is something missing, something to put sparkle in the eye of the beholder; nothing in the garden provokes energy and excitement in us like a school of premium koi in their multitude of colours and sizes. Healthy koi are like one of the finest flowers in the pond, and can easily become one of the family. Pond fish are a must for most pond owners and if they aren't a priority at first they will soon become one.

Koi keeping doesn't have to be difficult after all they were doing just fine in the wild before man took a liking to them. Here are a few guidelines to follow. Make sure you have adequate filtration to insure a proper balanced ammonia cycle. As a rule PH doesn't need to be played with, the fish would rather stick with one thing than having the PH spiking from being tampered with, if you're a water quality master than have at it, but as a rule don't worry about it. If you introduce new fish and you suspect that there is a significant difference in PH in the water then take longer to get the fish accustomed to your pond and add pond water to the fish bag slowly over a longer period of time. Always quarantine new fish for 14 days, fish can carry parasites and diseases for long periods of time without showing any sign, but once they are stressed it can cause death and the parasites will rapidly spread to other fish. Diluting some pond salt in your water will help to reduce fish stress, however excessive salt will harm plants; 1 lb per 100gal is adequate.

Having fish doesn't have to be a big hassle. By doing a few simple things to prevent problems they will quickly become your favourite part of the pond. Prepare to be amazed, adding koi to your garden pond is only the beginning of one of life's little journeys and a very satisfying site to behold.