



SPRINGTIME START-UP STEPS FOR YOUR POND

With the onset of warmer weather now is time to get outside and begin enjoying the water gardening season. Your pond has been dormant all winter and needs a little care to make it beautiful. Follow these simple steps to prepare your water gardening for success.

- 1. Inspect your pond** – Check to see what affect the winter weather has had on the pond liner, hoses, skimmer boxes and pumps. Make repairs as needed.
- 2. Make a water change** – You should make a 15% to 25% pond water change to eliminate the dissolved organics built up over the winter. Make sure to use a water conditioner to eliminate chlorine & chloramines found in municipal water. While they make water safe for human drinking, these substances are harmful to your pond fish and must be removed. Even a small trace of chlorine will irritate fish and damage gill tissue and large amounts can be toxic. Use a **PondCare** brand water conditioner such as **STRESS COAT®** or **AMMO-LOCK®** to make tap water safe and protect the fish and plants. Also remove dead leaves and debris that have accumulated in the bottom of the pond.
- 3. Reestablish the Natural Balance** – Clean out and start up your fountains and filtration system. Add beneficial bacteria such as **PondCare POND ZYME** or **ECOFIX™** to improve the development of the biological ecosystem in your pond to maintain the pond's natural balance.
- 4. Test your pond water** – It is not possible to know the condition of pond water without testing. **PondCare** Test Kits offer a quick and accurate way to evaluate pond water quality and stop problems before they occur. Ammonia and nitrite are the major causes of fish loss in ponds. These compounds can reach toxic levels in the spring once fish begin feeding. Testing is also a way to monitor the condition of the biological balance.
- 5. Inspect your Fish** – Take time to examine your fish. If you see torn fins, blood streaks, ulcers or a fungal infection use **PondCare MELAFIX®** and **PIMAFIX®**. **MELAFIX** is an all-natural antibacterial remedy for the treatment of koi and goldfish diseases. **PIMAFIX** is an all-natural antifungal remedy designed to work with **MELAFIX**. These will treat bacterial infections, ulcers and open wounds that may develop on your fish after a rough winter.
- 6. Feed your fish a low-protein fish food** – As the temperature of your pond water approaches 42°F, your fish will start looking for food. In cooler temperatures, when the water temperature is between 42° F (6° C) and 72° F (21° C), fish require a high carbohydrate/reduced protein diet. In cooler water, fish metabolism slows and so does the need for protein. Feeding a high protein food in cooler waters will result in poor water quality. In fact, the excess protein is converted to ammonia and excreted by the fish, adding to the pollution of the pond.

To prevent this from happening, feed your fish **PondCare** **SPRING & AUTUMN Premium Pellet**, a reduced-protein, high-carbohydrate, vitamin-enriched diet, specially formulated to feed pond fish when water temperatures are between 42°F and 70°F. In warmer climates or when the water temperature reaches 65°F and above feed **PondCare** **SUMMER STAPLE Premium Pellet**

7. Provide your fish with essential electrolytes – In addition to a proper diet fish also need electrolytes such as potassium, sodium, magnesium, chloride, and calcium to maintain proper health. **PondCare** **POND SALT** provides all the essential electrolytes fish need to survive. Add **PondCare** **POND SALT** in the spring to replace the salts lost during the winter from heavy rains, snow and ice. For planted ponds the recommended level of salt is 1 1/4 cups per 100 gallons and for fish-only ponds the recommended level is 2 1/2 cups per 100 gallons of pond water.

8. Caring for pond plants – Root-bound plants should be divided and re-potted. Use **PondCare** **AQUATIC PLANTING MEDIA** to re-pot plants. Most ponds don't have enough plants so plan for more! Besides adding beauty to your pond, plants help create a more natural ecosystem. Aquatic plants need the right nutrients for growth and flowering. **PondCare** **AQUATIC PLANT FOOD TABLETS** will provide these essential nutrients to potted plants such as water lilies and lotus. Floating plants such as water hyacinths, water lettuce, and Elodea will flourish when **PondCare** **AQUATIC PLANT FOOD LIQUID** is added to the pond. For an easy way to fertilize your plants during the growing season use **PondCare** **PLANT NUTRIENT SPRAY** for increased blooms and foliage.

9. Keep your water clean and clear – Murky, cloudy water is unattractive and unhealthy. A build-up of sludge and dissolved organics reduces the oxygen concentration in the water. Digest sludge and reduce dissolved organics with beneficial bacteria. Use Either **PondCare** **ECOFIX®**, **SIMPLY CLEAR** or **POND ZYME®**, they reduce organic pollution and maintain a healthy ecosystem in your pond.

10. Controlling Algae - Most ponds develop some form of unsightly algal growth during the water gardening season especially during the spring. Algae growth can appear in many forms, including green water blooms, filamentous sting algae, floating mats. **PondCare** **ALGAEFIX** works quickly to provide powerful control of these types of algae. Another choice for green water problems is **PondCare** **MICROBIAL ALGAE CLEAN** a patented bacterial strain that works with your pond's natural ecosystem to control and prevent algae and keep pond water clear.

If you have any questions consult your **PondCare** Retailer
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