

# Pond Department

## Fish Tips

1. Don't overstock your pond! Without adding excess filtration and maintenance headaches, the arguable rule of thumb is 5 gallons per inch of fish for a maximum load. This equates to approximately 150 gallons for Koi and 40-60 gallons for smaller fish like Comets and Shubunkin. Donate or sell your unwanted babies. Save spending money on dozens and dozens of smaller fish and use it on some nice large ones instead.
2. Koi are living art. Consider your choices in breeds and colors to compliment your surrounding landscape and home. Think of them as a moving painting or sculpture.
3. Fish are social creatures, always buy and introduce them into your ponds in quantities of two to three of the same types.
4. If you introduce too many fish into your pond at once, you may cause undue stress on the ecosystem AND the fish! Ammonia spikes are a common result. Introduce your fish one to two weeks apart
5. Can't accommodate the mature growth of koi in your little pond? Consider more exotic breeds of goldfish for the more interesting fish in a pond. Oranda, Ranchu and Ryukin are a few good eye-catchers to go with your run-of-the-mill Comets and Shubunkin.
6. Gambusias, better known as mosquito fish, are a great and cheap way to control mosquitoes in your water garden or ecosystem pond. Also try mosquito dunks.
7. If you leave room in your budget for larger Koi (12-16") you won't believe what those fish will do to string algae. Here one day, gone the next! Spend less on algaecide.

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### Fish Tips (Continued)

8. A common misnomer: Fish are limited by the size of their environment. While it may stunt them a bit or slow their growth, a fish that gets larger in a little pond will eventually outgrow it. Plan accordingly.

9. Are your fish acting funny? Fish do not “jump for joy.” If your fish are jumping, scraping themselves against the sides or bottom of the pond, gasping for air or anything else out of the ordinary, something is wrong. Test your ammonia, PH, and nitrite levels. Check your fish as thoroughly as possible for signs of parasites, wounds, distress, etc.



10. Be patient if you want to teach your fish to hand feed. Find a food they go crazy for, stick to a routine, and progress from standing to kneeling to sitting to dipping your hand into the water as the weeks go by. They’ll warm up to you.

11. Fish take a while to adjust to new surroundings. Don’t be surprised if they hide away when you approach for the first few weeks.

12. When introducing new fish, float the bag in the water for about 15 minutes before letting them free. If at any point they appear listless or lose balance, release them immediately. DO NOT empty the water in the bag into the pond; remove the fish from the bag.