

Fact Sheet 2

CHOOSING AND INTRODUCING FISH TO YOUR POND

It is recommended that plants be established for at least two weeks before introducing fish to a new pond. However, the longer the time between planting and fully stocking your pond with fish the better. Similarly any filtration equipment should be given a few weeks to run, giving you the opportunity to check running levels and ensure that there are no leaks before introducing fish. The level of stocking varies considerably according to the environment created. Planting levels, filtration, volume of water, surface area, water movement, aeration and the level of maintenance applied will all influence the numbers and varieties of fish that are stocked.

Stocking Levels

A stocking level of 15cm of fish per m² (2" of fish per ft²) of surface area is safe. With specialist Koi ponds, a guideline is at least 100 gallons of water per large fish. For example, a 2000 gallon pond capacity allows a maximum of 20 large fish. However, this only applies when the pond is well filtered and rigorously maintained.

Remember: this a maximum at initial stocking ... your fish will grow!

Understocking your pond gives an added margin for the well-being of your fish, as does the gradual build up of the fish population. This is preferable, rather than introducing the full complement at the beginning.

Introducing Fish to your Pond

All fish purchased from Solesbridge Mill Watergardens are supplied in bags which contain our system water and are inflated with oxygen. The sooner the fish reach your pond the better, especially in hot weather. When transporting them, they should be kept in the coolest and darkest part of your vehicle.

When introducing fish to your pond, you should do the following:-

1. Float the bag unopened on the pond for 5-10 minutes.
2. Open the bag and roll the top down so that it is still floating on the pond.
3. Over the next 15 minutes gradually add small amounts of your pond water to the bag.
4. Release fish carefully into your pond.

All types of fish will feed on the insect life in your pond. Some fish varieties will also graze on submerged aquatic plants. Larger Koi can be very destructive towards plants and using grids on the top of planting baskets will prevent them from accessing soil and plant roots.

As fish are cold-blooded their need for food and level of activity are dependent on water temperature. During warmer weather and to keep your fish healthy, it is advisable to feed your fish regularly. This will also enable you to view them at the water's surface. We stock a full range of fish food, and are happy to advise on all aspects of feeding.

At Solesbridge Mill Watergardens, all the fish available are compatible with each other. However, Koi and Fantails should not be kept together, as the Koi will often harass slower swimmers.

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