

## Koi Pond

In the Koi pond, the focus is on the fish. Known to be the “flower” of the pond these fish come in varied colors and designs, and they can get to be as large as 3’ long and live to be as old as 200 years! It is important to provide a protective environment for Koi, as there are predators who would love to have them for dinner. Both shelter and shade need to be considered when designing the Koi Pond. Because of their potential size (and number)... be sure to provide lots of space for your Koi.



Plants have a difficult time living harmoniously with the Koi. Koi tend to unpot plants looking for food. Special care is needed to grow plants in a Koi pond.

Shading the pond will provide an environment less friendly toward algae. Include a deep-water area (minimum 3 ft.) to give fish vertical as well as horizontal space to get good exercise. The exercising needs of Koi include swimming up and down as well as horizontally. This added depth also provides more gallonage to dilute their waste.

- Include a marginal shelf (at least 8” deep) to facilitate servicing the pond. Marginal water plants can live on this shelf if desired. Set them close to the surface on bricks or blocks. You may also make another shelf that is only about 12” deep for some tropical lilies. At this depth the Koi will tend to leave them alone.
- Koi ponds require a much higher degree of filtration and circulation than water gardens. Make sure you have a good rock bed in the bottom for bacteria to grow. You will also want to have a good biofilter.

In the Koi pond, the key to good water quality is filtration, filtration! Plan to spend 1 to 2 hours

weekly working on your pond. How much depends on the relative size of your pond, stocking

levels of fish and the nature of your filtration system.

