

Spring Pond Start-Up

Spring Clean-Up

Tools Needed: shop vac, shovel & broom, hose with spray nozzle, water treatments (de-chlorinator, Stress Coat, etc) holding tank for fish, wet newspapers, thermometer

When: Now!, before the temperatures rise
Slight cloud cover with some moisture

Step 1: Drain pond, using your re-circulating pump or an alternate sump pump. Fill a holding tank for the fish approximately 2/3 full with some of the pond water and discard the rest into the garden. Remove fish and plants as water level drops.

**Cover plants with wet newspaper and mist as needed so they do not dry out. (more details to right)

**Once the fish are in the holding tank acclimate them to the tap water slowly by running the hose slowly into the holding tank while cleaning the pond. (more details to right)

Step 2: Use shop vac or broom and shovel to remove sludge at bottom of the pond. Spray sides of pond and waterfall with pressure to remove dirt and algae (Do not scrub or use soaps or cleaners.)

**Leave some algae on sides for fish to feed off of when they are returned to pond.

Step 3: Re-fill pond. It is important to add de-chlorinator to water from municipal water supplies - your town can change the way they treat water at anytime and some of the newer treatment are deadly to fish if not removed from pond water. Other beneficial bacteria can be added to the water if temperatures are over 50F.

Step 4: Start pump, filters, UV sterilizers, etc to get water re-circulating. Run the pumps and filter continuously throughout the season to ensure the biological activity in the filter thrives and fish get enough oxygen especially during evenings.

Step 5: Return fish and plants to the pond. The water from the holding tank can be pumped back into the pond if it is not too dirty.

**If temperature in new water is greater than 10 degree difference from old water, float fish in bags to adjust fish gradually.

Plants

Spring is the best time to re-pot or divide most aquatic plants. Avoid harsh disruptions to the roots of early flowering plants such as Iris, as it may preclude this years blooms. Hardy plants can be returned to their places in the pond after cleaning. Some may need to be divided or transplanted. When you transplant and divide aquatic plants you should use heavy garden soil rather than the commercial potting soils (they tend to be very light and make a mess in your pond). A plastic or clay pot will do. Line the bottom of the pot with newspaper to prevent the soil from running through the holes. Cover the top with sand or stone to keep the soil from floating out the top. This is also a good time to fertilize your plants with Pondtabbs Aquatic Plant Fertilizer. Water plants thoroughly before putting them in the pond. Tropical plants can be done the same way, however, they should be held inside until the danger of frost has passed (Mid May - Late May).

Fish

As the temperature rises, fish are becoming more active. Keep a check on the temperature of the water. When the temperature reaches 50 degrees F you can begin feeding. Only feed them what they will eat in 5 minutes. Gradually work them up to their normal feeding schedule as the temperatures rise. Spring is a good time to medicate the pond if you notice any signs of infection on your fish. Weak fish may benefit from medicated fish food for 10-14 days

To find the gallons in a pond:

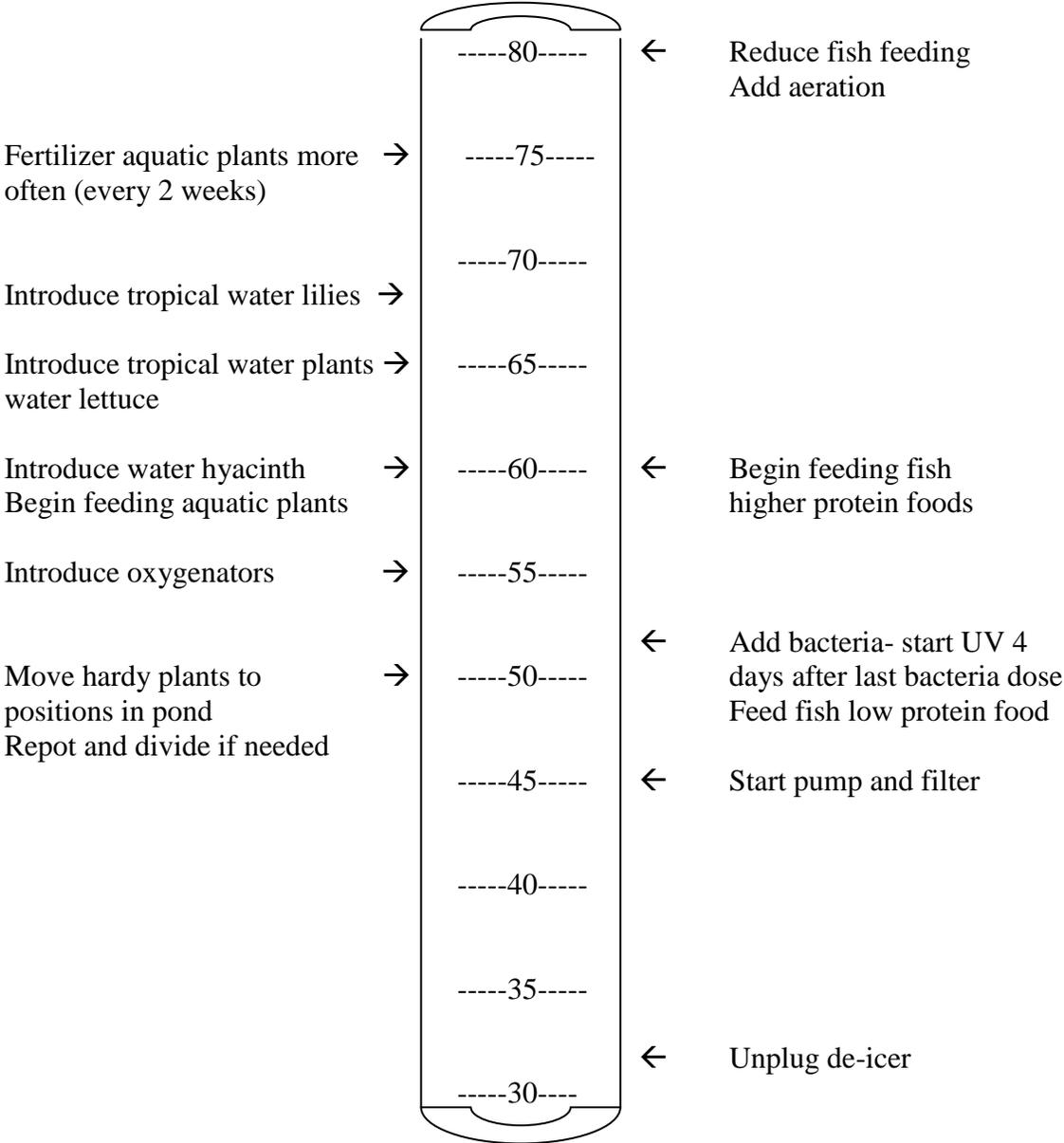
Length x Width x Depth x 7.48 = Gallons in a rectangle. Multiply this number by 80% to figure for curves and shelves to get gallon in the pond.

For a circle:

$3.14 \times (1/2 \text{ diameter} \times 1/2 \text{ diameter}) \times \text{depth} \times 7.48 = \text{Gallons in a circle}$

The following guidelines will help to get your pond started as the temperatures begin to rise.

**Average Temperature
of Pond Water (Fahrenheit)**



Spring Shopping List

Thermometer	The most useful tool you can have for guiding you through your ponds life cycle.
Pond Water Conditioner & Fish Conditioner	Essential to remove and neutralize chlorine, chloramine and heavy metals. Replace slime coat on fish Stress Coat, Vanish
Start Up Bacteria	To be used to seed biological filters and start up the eco-system in your pond. Start after water temperature has reached 50F for 5-7 days. Shut down UV sterilizer during application and for 7 days after. ABA, Microbe-Lift PL, Easy Pro All Season,
Enzyme Bacteria	Help to break down organic sludge that is missing in the cleaning or builds up throughout the season to keep the pond healthy. Pond Zyme, Clarity Max Plus, Microbe-Lift Spring & Summer
Water Clarifier	To help clear water clouded by dirt and debris. Should be used with a mechanical filter. RapiClear, Accuclear, Clearfast
Filter Media	It is best to change filter media in the spring before beneficial bacteria get started. Also change skimmer pads. Lava Rock, Polyester Matting, Bio Balls
UV Sterilizer	It is best to bring in old light to be sure of model when buying new bulbs. Good idea to change washer and gaskets when you replace bulb. Be sure to check for leaks before turning the light back on.
Net	To be used for moving fish and skimming debris.
Algae Control	Ponds often experience a algae bloom in the spring before plants are introduced and the eco-system is established Algaefix, Microbial Algae Clean, Barley, Phos X, AlgaeOff
Fish Health Care	Parasites and bacteria are active in water temperatures between 45-55F; however, fish immune systems do not become active until temperatures rise over 50F. Parasites can be more effectively controlled in water temperatures over 60F Melafix, Pimafix, Terminate, Pond Fish Treatment, Paracid, KnockOut, Medicated Fish Food, Pond Salt
Fish Food	When water temperatures are above 45F for a full week, you can start feeding leafy vegetable and soaked grains (cheerios). Start feeding sparingly (every 2-3 days) with low protein food when the water temperatures stay over 50F Sho-Koi Impact, API Cool Water, Tetra Spring & Fall, Blue Ridge Cool Water
Plant Fertilizer	Although plants do not utilize fertilizer until the water has warmed up, it is most convenient to fertilize at the time of re-potting Pondtabbs
New Pots	Line pots that have holes in the bottom with newspaper

Soil, Sand or Stone	Use a heavy aquatic soil or garden dirt to plant aquatics in. Cover newly planted soil with sand or stone so soil does not cloud water. Water thoroughly before putting in the water.
Water Test Kits	Maintain good water quality. Check for pH (7.0-7.5 is ideal), Nitrites (0 is ideal), Ammonia (0 is ideal)
Silk Aquatic Plants	For those that cannot wait until May for the real ones.
Pansies	For early spring color around the pond.

Remember that when you are adding any water treatment to your pond, it is important to add the correct dosage based on the number of gallons in the pond. Do not over-treat the pond by adding too much or using more than one product at a time.

To find the gallons in a pond
Length x Width x Depth x 7.48 = Gallons in a rectangle. Multiply this number by 80% to figure for curves and shelves to get gallon in the pond.

For a circle:
 $3.14 \times (1/2 \text{ diameter} \times 1/2 \text{ diameter}) \times \text{depth} \times 7.48 = \text{Gallons in a circle}$

(There are 7.48 gallons of water per cubic foot.)

****Tip****

If you are filling your pond or replacing the entire pond volume you can calculate the pond volume by reading your water meter before starting and after finishing. The difference will be the gallons in your pond provided no other water was used during this time.