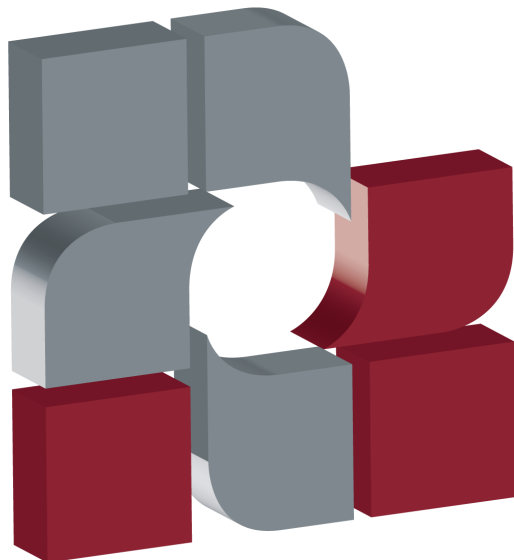


Thinking About a Pond?



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Site Selection

The location of your pond is a crucial component in ensuring continued success and enjoyment.

Consider the following components:

Sunlight

A medium of sun and shade is required. Healthy plant growth requires sunshine, yet too much sun will cause algae problems.

Trees

A location away from overhanging trees is best to prevent needles and leaves from clogging and polluting the water. Small specimen trees can add colour and life to your pond without the problems of larger varieties.

Viewing

Allow your pond to be the centre attraction in your yard. Check the angles from which you will view your pond. Start with the angles from your deck, patio, or from the windows of your home.



Physical Considerations

Pond size and depth are determined by the use and purpose of your pond.

Size

Whenever possible, the pond should be at least 5' X 6' (30 sq. ft.). This size of pond is usually easier to maintain.

Depth

For large fish such as **Koi**, the water must be at least 36 inches deep. **Water lilies** prefer a depth of 24 inches or less. Combine both of these beautiful features by adding shelves around the edges of the pond.

Keeping your fish over the winter months can be greatly simplified by increasing the depth of your pond. A deep pond allows increased water movement, and the temperature of the water will be much more constant, making it less susceptible to algae.



Movement

Waterlilies and other aquatic plants prefer fairly still surface conditions, while fish require the oxygenating effects of moving water, be it fountain, waterfall, or bubblers.

Construction Materials



There are three basic methods of construction available: poured concrete, preformed molds, and flexible liners.

Concrete ponds are the strongest and longest lasting structures, yet they involve the most difficulty in construction, and can run the risk of cracking during winter.

Preformed pools come in either fibreglass or plastic molds and are available in many shapes and sizes, but they too can crack in the cold weather.



Flexible liners are durable, and suitable for any pond size and shape. There are many types of liners ranging in material grade from thin plastic to heavy rubber.



Other Considerations

Edging Materials

To achieve a naturalistic water garden, it is important to conceal the pond edges. Tall marginal plants can be used on the pond's inside edges, while non-aquatic plantings can border the outside. Stones, boulders, or flagstone can be used to ease the transition from water to land. Wood decking is another method of extending space around your pond.



Safety

The safety of children is always a concern when dealing with water features. A waterfall, fence, or various tall plantings can act as a barrier to the water. Building a raised pond or installing a lighting or alarm system are other options. Common sense is the most crucial component in the creation of a safe environment.

Electrical

In order to facilitate lighting, pumps, or fountains, a nearby electrical source is required. Have an authorized electrician install a GFI circuit near the site if you are not comfortable or unable to do the work yourself.

Plantings

Certain plants help to maintain clear water, while others help to oxygenate the water for fish.



Oxygenators, deep

water plants, surface floaters, marginals are all categories of plants to consider.



Generally, about one-third of the pond's surface should be covered with surface floaters. Every 1-2 square feet of water surface requires one submerged or oxygenating plant, while one third of the pool perimeter should be used to grow marginal plants.

Plantings—Oxygenators



Submerged plants are particularly important for ponds. They derive much of their nutrients directly from the pool water, and are the critical factor in establishing an eco-balance and preventing green water. The general recommendation for stocking submerged aquatic

plants is one bunch per square foot of water surface. The oxygenator is for the pond animals and for the many bacteria that cannot decompose organic materials without oxygen.



Examples of submerged plants include hornwort, pondweed, elodea, water milfoil, parrot's feather, and duckweed.

Plantings—Surface Floaters



Surface floaters are a group of plants that include a wide range of water lilies, and other decorative colourful bloomers. Water lilies are popular with a wide diversity of colour, bloom hours, blooming seasons,

and shapes of flowers. These surface plants should cover a third of the pond. They provide shade to the pond as well as add decorative beauty.

Water lilies should be located in a sunny area, as their blooms lessen with shade. They prefer standing or slow-flowing water, so position fountains on the other side of the pond.

Other floating plants include water hyacinth, pondweed, willow grass, water chestnut. While true floating plants assist with nutrient removal, all plants floating on the water surface aid in establishing eco-balance by lessening the amount of sunlight entering the water.

Plantings—Marginals

Marginal and bog plants are used mainly for aesthetics. They soften the border between land and water, adding colour, shape, and form to the area, and disguising borders and any hardware.

Your pond gardening does not have to be large or cover a major area. The picture below shows a half barrel tub pond which is attractive, and has all the benefits of a water feature.



Lighting and Winter Interest

Effective lighting creates a dramatic scene which extends the beauty of your pond.



Enjoying the pond in the late hours of the day is an essential and wonderful part of living with your pond. Most lighting systems can be installed after the pond is completed, although an important prerequisite is to have a GFI circuit planned with enough receptacles. Many lighting ideas can improve your pond space: spot lighting, floating lights, garden lights, hanging, and bullets. There are many styles, sizes, and shapes to individualize your space.

The cozy glow of an evening by the lighted pond, as the water cascades and shimmers over the waterfalls is wonderfully satisfying and relaxing.



Filtration

Filtration is necessary to maintain the ecosystem of your pond, to keep the health of fish, plants, and other animals, and to improve the appearance of your pond.

There are several low maintenance filtration systems.

Natural Filtration

Natural filtration simply uses plants to perform the filtering functions within the pond. Plants selected for nutrient removal should be suited to our geographical area, as tropical submerged plants will not survive winter or do their job effectively. Adding fish to the pond also clarifies water, as the fish eat many forms of algae. Using this totally natural method is a slow process, and the pond balance must be monitored. It takes longer to establish but works very well.

Biological & Mechanical Filtration

A common filter combination that is very effective uses both biological and mechanical filtration. Biological filtration purifies the water with the 'good' bacteria and moving water, and mechanical filtration catches and removes particulates and debris from the water.

Ultraviolet Filtration

Even further control and clarification can be achieved with UV sterilization. Light at specific wavelengths kills germs, algae, viruses, fungi and protozoa. Mechanical filtration must also be performed to remove the particles from the water.



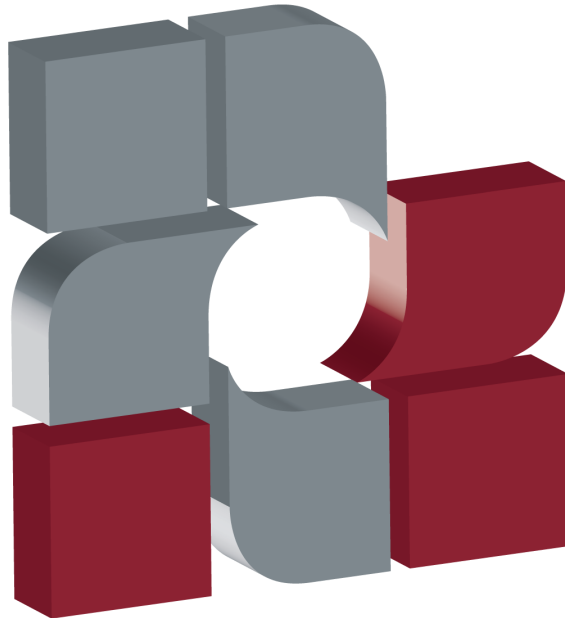
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