



HOW TO FEED POND FISH

Yes, pond fish need feeding.

Goldfish are the most common pond fish in NZ so this information applies to them. Comets & Shubunkins do best in ponds and can be fed floating foods.

Your fish cannot store large amounts of food, they have a very small stomach (about the same size as their eye) and if they over eat, the food will just pass through them without being metabolised. Small meals often are much better for them than large meals occasionally.

Always feed a quality food with high protein in Summer and low protein in Spring and Autumn. Store the food in a dark, cool place like your pantry. Do not leave it out in the sun by your pond where it will go stale and lose its goodness.

During Summer your fish are very active and need plenty of food. While it is warm you can feed 1 to 3 times per day but only as much as they can consume in about 2 minutes. A good rule of thumb is 2 to 3 mouth-fulls per fish at each feeding.

As the water cools in Autumn feed less often (once a day or once every second day) You should have a thermometer and if the water gets below 10°C stop feeding. The fish cannot metabolise food if the water is below 8°C and it can decay inside them causing bacterial infections. They will still eat algae and insects if they need to.

If the water gets below 7°C for a period of time your fish may go into hibernation. A fish that has had plenty to eat during Summer and is in good condition can hibernate for 8 to 10 weeks.