



The basics to having a clean and clear Ecosystem Pond

The ecosystem in a new pond takes time to balance itself. This can take six to eight weeks. Unfortunately this balanced ecosystem can be easily upset by doing the simplest things wrong. But if you follow these basic rules the time and effort that you put in is minimal.

Install a skimmer. A skimmer will take leaves, dirt and debris from the surface of the pond before it has a chance to sink and cause sludge on the bottom.

Always leave your pump going except when washing filters (your pond needs lots and lots of oxygen.)

Always wash filters in pond water or de-chlorinated tap water (chlorine kills the beneficial bacteria and harms your fish.) You can hose them if necessary but rinse in pond water before putting back in the skimmer.

Never top your pond up with untreated tap water, de-chlorinate first (chlorine kills the beneficial bacteria and harms your fish.) An automatic top up valve is the best as it only introduces very small amounts of chlorine which become diluted and dissipate quickly.

Put gravel on the bottom of your pond (for beneficial bacteria to colonize on.)

Add lots of plants (very important to use up nutrients and fish waste.)

Don't over stock with fish (1-fish per 200 liters maximum.)

Don't over feed your fish (only feed them what they can consume in 1-2 minutes, they will have plenty to eat in the pond anyway.) A good rule of thumb is 2-3 mouth-fulls per fish once or twice a day during Spring & Summer. Feed less in winter & do not feed if water is constantly below 10°C

Don't build your pond in a low area of the garden where it gets a lot of runoff (this will fill it with nutrients.)

Avoid concrete and cement in your pond (lime leach from cement raises pH which is detrimental to fish, plants, beneficial bacteria and it promotes algae growth.)

Don't use chemicals to kill algae (it only works very short term and the decomposing dead algae produces more nutrients for another algae bloom.)

Have fish tunnels and caves where your fish can hide and feel safe (this reduces stress on the fish and they are much happier and healthy.)