

WINTER CARE OF FISH POND

The fish should be fed as long as they appear active. Usually the feeding stops when water temperature reaches 45°F.

If a fish pond is completely covered by ice, the fish may suffocate because gases are trapped under the ice. The fish need only a small air hole.

Methods of preventing ice formation are:

1. Installing a small pump discharging the water 2" below the surface.
2. Building a protective frame of wood covered with clear plastic.
3. Floating several tennis balls to keep ice open.
4. Using a de-icer (as a horse trough heater).
5. Placing a pot of boiling water on the ice. Tie a string to the pot handle so you can retrieve the pot if it falls through.

Whatever you do, do not bash a hole in the ice. The fish will be killed by the shock waves.