



Pond Checklist

- Must dechlorinate water before adding water to the pond. Be sure to dechlorinate every time you add additional water to your pond.
- Full sunlight will heat up water too much in pond so fish can't survive in it.
- If volume of the pond is too small, pond can freeze all the way through in the winter and fish will die.
- Recommend pond to be at least 2 feet deep. The bigger the pond the better.

Strong light can cause excessive algae growth. To combat algae and green water:

- -can shade the pond
- -grow plants inside and outside pond to shade the pond. Growing plants in pond also helps clean the water.
- -UV sterilizer- can kill floating algae (that causes green water)
- -Add more plants
- -Filter and clean filter often

Water movement:

- -Need water movement with pumps.
- -Fountain is ok but really need pump to move water from one end to the other side, falls back down, and break water surface so there is good exchange of air.

Adding fish to your pond:

- -Add fish gradually. Recommend cycling with fish you intend to keep. Examples: larger goldfish (not feeder fish), gambusia (mosquito larvae eating fish), or koi. Feed fish once a day.
- -Start by adding with around 10% of the fish you intend to keep. Let that cycle for 6-8 weeks and then add more fish gradually. The nitrogen cycle can be sped up by adding nitrifying bacteria.

Pond plants

- -Put pot 3-6 inches below water. Top part of plant above water may freeze and die. But the bottom part of the plant that's 3-6 inches under water won't freeze so plant won't die.
- -Light- full or partial sunlight. Plant won't grow in full shade.
- -if possible shade the west side of your pond (can plant shrubs or use shade cloth. Lotus also provides a lot of shade). You'll have morning sun and shade the pond from the afternoon sun when it's the hottest.

Pond filter

1. Use mechanical filter (bucket with bioball and filter pad) good at taking out particulate so water clearer but doesn't remove nitrate
2. Natural filter- plants (another container bigger than what a mechanical filter would be) has medium in it (gravel, lecca ball) and plant plants in and pump water in it and out into your pond to filter water. Removes nitrate but not particulate stuff. So water may not be clear
3. Combination of #1 and #2 is the best.