



Winterizing Your Water Garden



As the weather cools, your mind will be on what to do in your gardens and landscape before winter but did you know that you also need to winterize your water garden/pond? There are various reasons to winterize ponds:

- 1. Keep koi fish healthy (and alive!)**
- 2. Keep equipment from damage and freezing**
- 3. Prep hardy (and less hardy) pond plants**
- 4. Keeping a clean overwinter environment that isn't full of harmful debris and waste**

If you have kept up with your maintenance throughout the year, winterizing your pond will be an easier process. We have broken it down into easy to follow steps

- 1. Clean your pond**
- 2. Treat your pond with beneficial bacteria**
- 3. Treat your pond & fish against parasites**
- 4. Tend to pond plants**
- 5. Shut down your pond**
- 6. Feed your Koi the correct food**
- 7. Protect your fish during freeze periods**

1. Clean Your Pond

Clean leaves and debris from the pond using a pond vacuum or a scooping net.

Leaves will fall during the Fall months so if you have leaves we recommend installing a pond net during this time to help keep leaves from falling into your water. Remove once the leaves have all fallen and no longer present a risk of dirtying up the pond. (Note: leaving the net on is a risk during snowy periods because the net may not be able to support the weight of the snow)

2. Treat your pond with beneficial bacteria

Much like taking probiotics, treating your pond with beneficial bacteria reduces nitrites, ammonia, & organic debris in the water. We recommend:

Microbelift Autumn & Winter Prep



3. Treat your pond & fish for parasites

We recommend treating your pond for parasites in both Spring and Fall. When temperatures hover around 50-55 degrees, we recommend treating your pond against harmful parasites/pathogens. We recommend using

API Melafix (for Ponds)



Microbelift Broad Spectrum

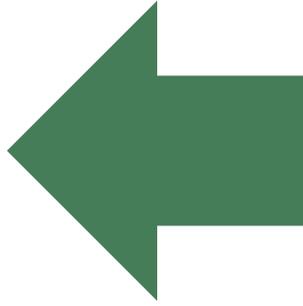


If you do not treat in the Fall then you may find your parasite/pathogens waking up quicker than your Koi fish in the Spring.

4. Tend to your Pond plants

Hardy Aquatic Plants

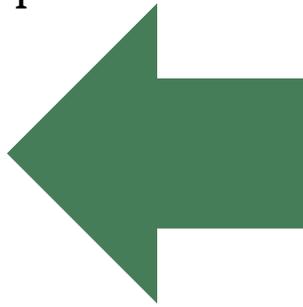
- Reeds/Rushes
- perennial Hibiscus (not tropical varieties)
- Iris
- Sweet Flag
- Horsetail
- Water Lily



Cut back dead foliage

Marginally Hardy Aquatic Plants

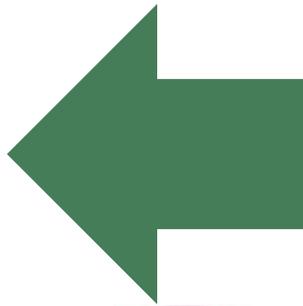
- Reeds/Grasses/Rushes
- perennial Hibiscus (not tropical varieties)
- Iris
- Sweet Flag
- Horsetail
- Water Lily



Cover crowns by submerging under your typical ice line

Non-Hardy Aquatic Plants

- tropical Hibiscus
- Elephant Ears
- Umbrella Palm
- Canna Lily
- Papyrus



Attempt to overwinter indoors or compost and start with new ones next Summer



5. Shut down your Pond

To protect your equipment from freezing damage, you can shut down your pond during the winter. (Our winters are so unpredictable and can be cold & freezing or be unseasonably warm. It's always a gamble!) If you choose to winterize your equipment:

- Disconnect and remove your pond pump. Clean it thoroughly.
 - If your pump is a direct drive pump then store in a bucket of water to keep the seals moist.
 - If your pump is asynchronous or magnetic drive then store dry.
- Drain water from any hoses/plumbing systems that connect the filtration system
- Remove filter pads and bio-media. Clean and replace inside the filter. Be careful to not lose any important o-rings & gaskets.
- Drain water from flow through or gravity filters. Clean and store inside.
- If you have a waterfall that will be shut down, make sure you have an aerator in your pond.
- Disconnect, clean, and store UV lighting.

6. Feed your Koi the correct food

Kind of like a bear in hibernation, Koi go through a state called torpor when the water temperature begins to stay below 50 degrees. They will primarily live off of their stored resources during the winter. Feed less often (1-2x a week) using a wheat germ based fish food in the fall. When water temperature drops below 40, your fish should be in hibernation and you should not feed them until water temperatures rise in the Spring.



7. Protect your fish during freezing periods

If the surface freezes, make sure to keep a hole in the ice to allow gas & oxygen exchange

More questions? Just reach out to us at
423-245-GROW or info@evergreenofch.com

Evergreen
of Colonial Heights