



MUD POND KOI WINTERIZATION SEMINAR

Plant and Debris Removal

Let's start with plant care. As your plants go dormant, they will lose their leaves. The decomposing plant matter can be harmful to your water quality/fish. Trim back your plants and remove the debris with a quality, heavy-duty net or, preferably, a Pond Vac because it is much more thorough and can also provide a water change. Cleaning out the debris results in an overall healthier pond. Tender marginals can be placed in protected, indoor spaces but, as a rule, try to leave plants where they are in your pond.

Leaf and Predator Control

I recommend netting your pond in mid-fall. Leave the net on until spring. A net will control predators and will prevent leaves and other plant matter from dropping into your pond. As I mentioned before, decomposing plant matter can cause problems for your pond and your fish. Adding a net also allows you to turn off your Scarecrow, which you should do to prevent freezing of the unit. Winterizing your Scarecrow is simple. Turn off the water. Wave your hand in front of the unit to empty it of water. Remove the battery and turn it off. With the net in place until spring weather returns, herons, raccoons and other predators become much less of a problem.

U.V. and Auto-Fill Shut-Off

It is best if you can completely disassemble the U.V. unit and store it inside. The U.V.'s quartz sleeve, bulb and power unit are all vulnerable to cold weather. Start up the U.V. system in the spring when the water temperature reaches 48 degrees F. If your pond has an auto-fill, simply disconnect the water supply to the valve.

Prevent Surface Freeze

Consider turning off your pump and adding an aeration pump to prevent surface freeze. This is a good thing because if it does get bitterly cold an ice dam can develop in your waterfall, resulting in run-off and an empty pond. An aeration pump is more energy efficient than running a waterfall pump. Another alternative to prevent surface freeze is an inexpensive pond heater.

Koi Care

Discontinue feeding your koi when the water temperature falls below 48 degrees F. A thermometer is a necessary tool. If you haven't done this already, a salt treatment is beneficial.

Questions? Call Kevin at 927.8686 (cell) or 671.7226 (store). Thank you!