

Eight Steps for Springing Your Pond

After a long cold winter, there are a few things that you should do before putting your pond back into service.

- 1. Inspect The Pond** - Take a careful look around your pond. Make sure there has been no winter damage to the pond or any of the components. Repair or replace as necessary.
- 2. Clean The Pond** - Manually scoop out as much debris from leaves and water plants that has settled at the bottom of the pond as possible or use a pond vacuum if you have one. You can also use our Natural Bacteria & Enzyme products such as Microbe Lift Sludge Away, or Pond-Zyme with Barley. Use these products on a regular schedule throughout the year for a healthier pond.
- 3. Start Pump** - If your pump has been off for the winter, spring is the time to start it back up. Most people do this when the water temperature increases to around 50 degrees. Start the pump back up when you will be spending time around the house for several hours. This way you can keep an eye on everything and make sure that all the water is still going where you want it to go (back in the pond).
- 4. Start Filter** - If the pump and filter system have not been running for a while, you will want to give your filter media a thorough cleaning prior to starting the system back up. Next, or if your pump has run all winter, it is time to give the bacterial colonies a boost. There are many products that accomplish this like Microbe Lift Spring and Summer Cleaner.
- 5. Test Water** - Begin testing the pond water again. Of particular importance are ammonia and nitrite levels. Both of these should be zero. Perform partial water changes if either test gives a reading other than zero.
- 6. Condition Fish** - Spring is the time of year when fish are most susceptible to developing health problems. There are a few things that can be done to help protect the fish. Gram-negative bacteria can cause severe infections. For general protection, pond salt can be an easy way to help the fish ward off disease and pathogens. MelaFix is a safe natural treatment that will help to make sure your fish get a healthy start in spring especially if there has been any physical damage during the winter.
- 7. Feeding** - Warm weather means your fish are now or soon will be ready to start eating again. Until the water temperature is consistently above 50 degrees, do not feed the fish. Once the water temperature is into the 50s you will want to feed a food designed for spring and fall. As the water temperature reaches into the 60s it will be time to feed your regular summertime fish food.
- 8. Plants** - Also as the water temperature reaches into the 50s it will be time to get the hardy plants that survived the winter ready for a great year ahead. This is the time we begin fertilizing the plants. Also, for maximum performance, it may be necessary to divide some of these plants. If the plants are too crowded in their pots, they will suffer and their growth and flowering potential limited. Simply thinning these out will provide you with more from your plants.

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