

## Spring

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Clean the pond. Remove all fish and place them in a large pail or barrel of original pond water in a shady spot somewhere. Remove all plants, keeping them wet and also in the shade. If a pond vacuum is available, vacuum the inside of the pond, changing 1/2 to 2/3 of the water. Otherwise, pump out all water and sweep up any debris with a soft brush or vacuum with a Shop-Vac. Rinse the liner with clean water and repeat as necessary. Never use any type of cleaning agent in your pond.

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Take time to inspect the pond walls and floor for holes or other problems and repair, if found. Fill pond and treat the water with a product such as OASE Water Prep Plus to neutralize chlorine and heavy metals. Slowly acclimatize fish, returning the water from their holding tank to the pond. Observe the water temperature.

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Increase water circulation, re-install any fountain nozzles removed in the winter.

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Add submerged plants (i.e. Anacharis) to starve out algae. (one bunch for each 2 sq. ft. of pond surface). If necessary, algicides can be added at this time at half dosage, keeping in mind that this will also slow other plants' spring growth.

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If a UV sterilizer is present, it can be turned on after the bio-filter is working properly and the water starts to turn slightly green.

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Add a biological booster treatment (a bacteria to help jump-start bio-filters and break down sludge).

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Divide and repot plants as needed. Fertilize each plant and place at appropriate depth. Lilies and Lotus can be fertilized once a month, if desired, to maximize bloom, marginals every 2 months.

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After danger of frost is past, add floating plants (i.e. water hyacinth or water lettuce).

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Start feeding your fish again only when the water temperature reaches a constant 10°C (50°F).