

Spring

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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