

We're Here to Help!

Ponds offer a great deal of reward for the maintenance they entail. This brochure is meant to help take some of the guesswork out of cold weather pond tasks.

If you need pond plants visit Phelan Gardens during the warm weather months. We offer a large selection and are open seven days a week.



Open Year-Round
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway
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www.phelangardens.com

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Winter Pond Maintenance



Phelan Gardens

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Pond Care Tips



As cooler weather sets in and pond temperatures get colder, pond plants and fish need preparation for winter. Follow these steps after the first fall frost (*approximately October 10 for downtown Colorado Springs*), for a healthier pond in the spring.

- Remove and keep all dead plant material out of the water to prevent anaerobic decay and subsequent fouling of the water. Vacuum, or clean out the bottom of your pond by November 1st to give fish a clean place to reside over the winter months. Cut all plants back.
- Clean filters. If filters are to be bypasses in the winter (most are), drain filters and piping to



prevent damage caused by freezing.

- Change approximately 10-20% of the water after the first real hard freeze, but before November 1st.
- Check fish and treat them for ailments. Fish with problems will probably not make it through the winter and can affect the other fish.
- In the fall, consider feeding the fish easily digested foods such as puffed wheat and rice, wheat bread, frozen peas, and greens.
- Stop feeding fish when morning pond temperatures are less than 50 degrees.

Keep an opening in the ice at all times to exchange gases

There are three ways to do this... by circulating water, by using an air stone, or by using a pond/birdbath heater.

- If circulating water is to be used, cut water flow back to reduce the currents fish move through to con-

serve their energy. Locate the pump on the opposite side of the lowest point in the pond and at mid-depth of the water. A small volume of water is usually sufficient to keep an opening in the ice for almost all of our coldest weather.

- If an air stone is to be used, locate it, too, away from the deep end of the pond.
- A pond heater or birdbath heater can be used if power is available. Locate the heater at least 12" from the edge of the pond liner.
- Keep snow off the ice to allow light and oxygen to the pond.
- Keep pets, persons, and anything else you value off the ice as there will be thin ice somewhere no matter how cold it is or for how long the cold lasts.

