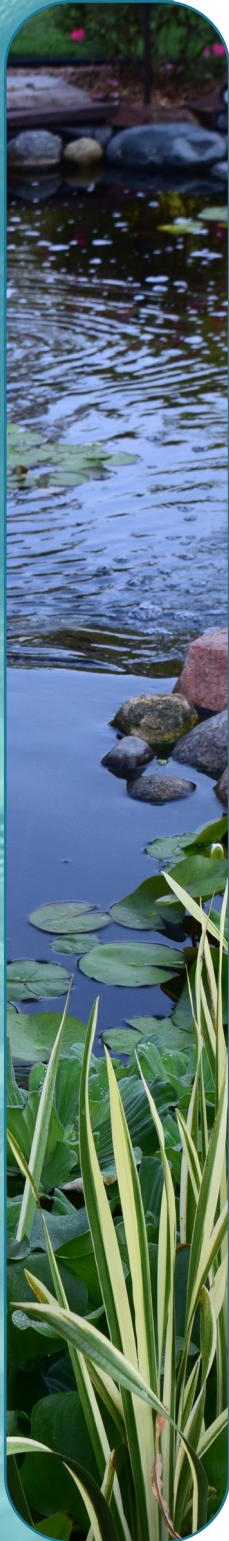




"How To" Series: Water Temperature Action Guide for Water Gardens & Koi Ponds

By Rick Smith, EasyPro® Pond Products

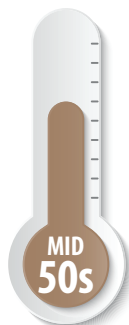
Fall Water Temperature Guide (Preparing for Winter)



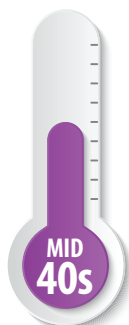
- Move tropical plants inside – winterize the plants or dispose of them entirely
- Start cutting back dead or decaying plants
- Plants with hollow stems need to have their stems above the water line – may cut the rest off
- Stop fertilizing water plants – divide and re-pot water plants if needed – except water lilies
- Divide water lilies in the spring when water temperatures are once again in the mid-60s



- Remove leaves, debris, and sludge from bottom of pond with net or pond vacuum
- Clean filters, skimmer pads and nets with water only – Don't use soap or cleaners
- Change fish food over to wheatgerm-based food like EasyPro® Cold Water Food
- Perform a 25% to 50% water change. Add EasyPro® Water Conditioner with new water
- Net your pond using either one of EasyPro®'s Pond Tents or per foot netting



- STOP FEEDING YOUR FISH when the water temperature moves into the 50s
- Continue cutting back dead or decaying plant material
- Begin adding EasyPro® Cold-Water Bacteria to break down sludge during the winter months
- Place biological material from your filter box in the bottom of your pond to preserve it



- Continue to remove any remaining dead or decaying plant material – especially leaves
- Move potted plants to the bottom of the pond – Keep stems of hollow stem plants above the water line
- DISCONNECT PUMPS and place them in a bucket of water – store in an above freezing location
- Drain water lines and open all ball valves to prevent winter freezing damage
- Move aeration diffuser to one end of the pond – 8" deep to keep a hole open in the ice during winter



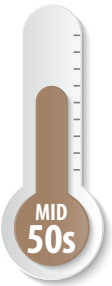
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Spring Water Temperature Guide (Start Up & Summer Maintenance)



- Open your pond once the snow has melted and water temps are consistently above 40° F.
- Rake and dispose of any leaves in the surrounding area – remove pond netting if still in place.
- Use a skimmer net and/or pond vacuum to remove debris in the pond.
- Clean and reconnect your pump and filters. **Do not** use soap, bleach or cleaners.
- Take the biological media from the pond bottom and replace in the Aqua-Falls box.
- **IMPORTANT** – Add EasyPro® Seasonal Boost Cold Weather Bacteria to recolonize bacteria.
- Clean up and divide water plants. Move from pond bottom to the plant shelf.
- Wait to divide water lilies until the water temperature is at least in the mid-60s.
- Perform a 25% water change. If muck is more than 1-inch deep, perform a complete water change.



- Feed fish once weekly with EasyPro® Cold Water Food with Wheatgerm (50-65° F).
- **IMPORTANT** – Test the water quality with one of the test kits offered by EasyPro®.
- Ammonia and nitrites should be zero. If higher, perform a 25% water change.
- pH should be between 6.5 & 8. (7.2 is neutral). If outside this range, use EasyPro®'s pH Up or Down.
- Test salt levels with a salinity meter from EasyPro®. Salinity should be between 0.1% & 0.2%. Assuming salinity is a 0% - gradually add 1 lb of EasyPro® Pond Salt per 100 gallons of water.
- **IMPORTANT** – If you use an ultraviolet (UV) light clarifier, replace the bulb and clean the sleeve.
- Prepare for the return of Blue Heron. Install motion detection or the EasyPro® Bronze Resin Heron Fountain.



- Switch fish food to EasyPro®'s Max Color or Koi Max Growth/Color.
- Once water temps are in the mid-60s, you may now divide lilies. Do not bury the crown.
- For the first month of operation, clean mechanical filter pads weekly. As needed after that.



- Place aeration diffusers either under the waterfall or at the bottom of the pond.
- If you need to use an algacide, be sure to clean the mechanical filter pads within 3-4 days.
- Plants should cover 25 to 30% of the pond service. (Water lilies, water lettuce and hyacinth are great.)