

Lets talk Koi!

Here are some tidbits on Koi. Whether you have them now, or you're thinking of adding some, here's some basic information that may help. I have learned this year that it is very important to consider the source of your purchase. And if the Koi are grown here in the United States or imported. I spoke with a dealer the other day and he warned me of these issues. He said he will be only purchasing his Koi from Malaysia this year. Last year his domestic Koi became ill and died. And he could not explain why. I'll take his advice. So please consider where you purchase your Koi. Be sure it is from someone that knows about the source of where they came. Also be sure you quarantine them in a separate tank to be sure they're free of illness before you add them to your stocked pond. You could lose some of your favorite fish. I plan on having a variety of Koi for sale this year. If you are interested please let me know.

Koi belong to the carp family like their well known cousins the goldfish. All Koi have the same shaped body and some variation of the fins. They vary in the color and pattern of their bodies. All Koi have whiskers, which are known as barbels.

Koi are a hardy fish. They can live in a variety of water conditions. The heartiness, growth, and health of Koi can be affected by the quality of the water they live in. The PH should be between 7-9.

They winter-over in their pond well with certain precautions, such as pond depth, heater and water circulation. You will need a bubbler or your pond must be kept running during this season to keep oxygen in the water. Be sure to provide shade for your Koi in the hot summer months. Lilies are perfect for shading your pond.

Koi have lived as long as 226 years! on good water conditions, 50-100 years would not be unusual. This just amazes me! How old are your Koi? I hope to get some photos of yours for my web site this season.

Koi vary greatly in their growth rates. An average is 4 inches at the end of the first year, 8 inches at the end of the second year, and 12 inches at the end of their third year. However, after their 3rd year their growth pattern slows down. Koi can exceed 30 inches in length but growth can be greatly impaired by an overcrowded pond. I found my goldfish did not grow as large due to this. They are still healthy, they just didn't grow to their normal size. They are only 6"-8" over 5 years. I know some of you have such beautiful and very large Koi. You are definitely doing everything right! Great job!

Commercial Koi food is best. Be sure it contains all the nutrients they need and that it doesn't foul the water. They can be fed 3 to 4 times per day (if possible) with an amount they will eat within 5 minutes. As water temperatures decrease in winter, reduce feeding. When water temperatures fall below 55 degrees don't feed your Koi, as they are not able to digest the food. This is why you must be sure not to start feeding your Koi until the water reaches 55+. I wait until it reaches 60-65 myself. Koi need a variety of nutrients in their food, such as spirulina algae, shrimp meal, fish meal, vitamin C and a complement of other important vitamins and minerals, to name a few. This will help maintain their immune system and encourage growth and bright colors. There are two types to keep on hand. A spring/autumn blend and a summer blend. I will be carrying both this season for you to purchase.

There are 13 varieties, each containing a number of subgroups. The different types of Koi are classified by the colors and patterns. Here are just a few examples.

