

All about  
**Pond Fish  
Feeding**

---

A complimentary eBook from CheapPetStore.com

---

Our prices say it all. Our Pet Library makes it better.



# Pond Fish Feeding

## Introduction

The feeding patterns and growth rate of pond fish depends on water temperature, water quality, population of the fish and genetic background. Most fish are active in the summer months and will require sufficient food to become sexually mature during breeding season. When there is poor water quality in a pond, some fish may lose their appetite and may stop eating. The metabolism of the fish impacts its ability to digest food and will affect its growth rate when there is an over population of fish in the pond. Oftentimes, fish can become stressed from fighting for food. So it is very important to monitor the feeding habits of the fish in the pond in order to ensure their health and safety.

## General Description

Feeding fish in a pond requires monitoring their health, scheduling, knowledge of food variations and temperature. Fish that are overfed, sickly or diseased may affect the health of other fish. Scheduling the feeding cycle, location and quantity of food will ensure that overfeeding does not occur. It is important to know that not all fish eat the same type of food. The selection of food for each fish will ensure proper nutrition and growth. Some fish may slow down or stop eating during winter months due to the change in their activity levels. Due to the population of the pond, you may need to need to purchase feeders to make sure that all of the fish stock is eating. Most importantly, always maintain good water quality to ensure the health of the fish.

## Choosing the Proper Food

Food supply in a pond is an important factor to the health and quality of life of fish. The growth rate and overall balance of the pond is contingent on the fact that fish are provided with an adequate food supply. Commercial feed is one option to consider and these have been tested for easy digestion in ponds. These feeds may come in different forms such as floating pellets and flake food. When starting your feeding program, visit your local feed store or breeder to discuss what choice would be beneficial for the type of fish in your pond.

### Types of Pond Fish Food

Pond fish food may be purchased in different forms such as pellets, flakes, sticks and wafers. Due to the diversity of fish in a pond, most fish will eat floating pellets. These pellets may range in size from 1/8" to 1/4" and are small enough to be consumed by most fish but large enough to satisfy the hunger of adult fish. Using the floating pellets allows you to monitor the amount of food that is consumed. This type of supplement provides protein levels that range from 28% to 32%. Using commercial feeds will increase the growth rate and lead to higher survival rates for new hatchlings during critical spawning seasons. Flake food may meet the dietary requirements of some goldfish and can provide for their nutritional needs and maintain their bright



- [Pond Fish Feeding Products](#)



### [Color Enhancing Pellets](#)



### [Anti-Parasite Medicated Fish](#)

 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)

## Proper Feeding

Fish should be fed regularly and consistently. Due to the fact that some fish such as koi do not have teeth, they will need to eat food that will be easily digested. Easy digestion of food minimizes waste, provides a clean environment and requires less maintenance for the pond owner.

### When to Feed

Fish should be fed no more than three times per day in warmer waters and once a day in cooler waters. It is recommended that fish should not be fed in temperatures less than 39° F – 60° F, depending on the type of feeds you are using. The location that you have chosen has to be free from obstruction, at least 3 feet deep, and away from any established spawning areas.

### How to Feed

Training your fish for feeding is quite simple. Never throw out large amounts of feeds at one time, but try to cover a wide area when spreading the food. Make sure that enough time is allowed before spreading more food and let them carry it all away so that none is left to float into the skimmer or filter. When fish do not come up for feeding, it may be too cold, or too warm. If this occurs, feed lightly.

### How Much to Feed

When beginning the feeding program, fish should not be fed for more than five minutes at a time. It is important to monitor the amount of feed that is consumed so that you are not overfeeding or underfeeding. After initially training the fish to feed, you may increase the feeding time to approximately 10 minutes. At the scheduled time and location, fill a 16 oz. cup with commercial feeds during feeding time. It is recommended that all feeding activities should be consistently done to in order to maintain the feeding habits of the fish.

### Consequences of Improper Feeding

Improper feeding can result in poor water quality due to excess debris left during feeding. Overfeeding and underfeeding are mistakes that many pond owners make - not realizing it is affecting the overall balance of the water environment with bacterial growth and infections.



[Floating Koi Food](#)

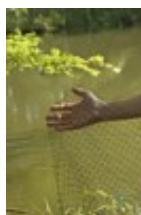
---

You'll need these basics for your pond. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Chlorine Neutralizer](#)
- [Skimmer](#)
- [Pump](#)
- [UV Clarifier](#)
- [Pond Algae Controllers](#)



[Pond Skimmer](#)



[Pond Netting](#)



[Floating Food Sticks](#)

## Overfeeding

Overfeeding occurs when fish have eaten more than they need. When you overfeed the koi fish, their rings will not be clearly defined and it becomes difficult to determine their age. These fish will eventually develop large bellies and resemble the tadpole and will have health problems that will affect their liver and other internal organs. Remember excess food settle at the bottom of the pond and will lead to more cleaning and maintenance.

## Underfeeding

It is important to remember to feed fish on a regular basis. Underfeeding may not impact all fish, but may affect very large fish in the summer due to rapid weight loss as their activity level increases. The growth of small fish may be stunted and they could possibly die. When there is not enough food, fish may begin to eat the vegetation in the pond. As you monitor your pond, watch for signs of underfeeding such as: heads wider than their bodies, slightly sunken eyes, a kink in the base of the tail, poor color, thinness, trailing white stools, and inactivity.

## Seasonal Feeding Tips

Although fish are cold blooded, the water temperature directly affects their metabolism.

In the colder waters or seasons, fish simply don't eat as much. Their metabolic rate has decreased and they will not require as much food. When feeding in colder temperatures under 70° F but above 64° F, limit food to once a day or every other day. When temperatures are at 55°F - 53°F, stop feeding.

When in warmer temperatures, fish may need a lot of food because they are burning a lot of calories and less oxygen is available. Monitor the amount of debris and waste that is accumulating during this period because feeding will cloud the water, weaken or stress the fish. When this occurs, the use of an additional water pump will increase the oxygen in the pond. It is also recommended that intermittent changing of the pond water can contribute to cooling the water temperature and will reduce the growth of bacteria in the pond.



[Fish and Koi Protector](#)



[Air Pump](#)



[Pond Test Kit](#)



[Pond Hose](#)



[Waterfall Filter](#)