



All about

Pond Goldfish

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Goldfish in Ponds

Introduction

During the Town Dynasty, Chinese ponds were populated with fish. As a result of a genetic mutation, the dominant gene displayed a “gold” or yellowish orange color that has become one of the most common colors. In 1874, the goldfish was first introduced to North America and became very popular.

Goldfish, smaller in size than the koi, add a variety of colors in ponds, making them exciting to watch. They may live up to 20 to 30 years, whereas the koi may live up to 50 years. When considering a goldfish pond, remember that without some type of control over population, goldfish ponds will become overstocked. When koi are intermingled in a pond with goldfish, koi may interbreed and produce a sterile new fish. Goldfish can be kept in a pond all year round in different temperature ranges if the pond is at a depth of at least 80 cm (30 in).

General Description

The goldfish is the earliest fish to become domesticated. It ranges in a variety of shape, color and eye configurations. During the spring, goldfish will be very active. It is not uncommon during the winter for the goldfish to become slow, stop eating or stay on the bottom. It may grow to a maximum length of 23 inches and a maximum weight of 6.6 pounds. The natural habitat for goldfish may be located in slow-moving or still bodies of water with depths up to 65 feet and a temperature range of 40° to 106° Fahrenheit, but will not live long in higher temperatures.

Selecting Your Goldfish

When selecting your goldfish, the type of fish you want to see and the environment is of great importance. One factor to remember is that all fish do not adapt well in the same environment. When selecting a goldfish for your pond, you should look closely at the condition of the body, color, finnage and any special characteristics. If you are a first time owner, the common goldfish will be less expensive to replace. Remember to purchase suitable pond fish food to minimize waste and pollution.

A Few Words about Breeders

The choice of breeders should be considered carefully. A reputable breeder should be able to provide information concerning stock level, filtration, feeding, water changes, health and disease. In addition, the breeder should be able to provide a selection of goldfish from a wide variety that may differ in color, physical appearance or size. Remember to inquire about the age and sex of the goldfish in order to ensure that proper care is taken when placed in your pond. Goldfish are naturally born with one of three-color types that include wild type, bronze or pink (albino). Breeders usually favor the bronze or pink color.



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A Few Words about Pet Stores

Due to the harness of the weather, store-bought fish do not adjust as easily to the pond environment. This is not to say that goldfish purchased from pet stores will not work, but usually, you will have a higher percentage of loss. If you are concerned about cost and have a budget, goldfish purchased from a pet store may be more economical for the first time pond owner.

How to choose your New Pond

Ponds are created to provide a habitat for a variety of cold-water fish, but the design of the pond is critical when meeting the specific requirements of the goldfish. When choosing the design, remember that additional amenities such as fountains and waterfalls add beauty to the pond environment.



[Pond Kit](#)

Setting Up Your Pond

Before setting up your pond, you need to consider the environment, sunlight, water quality, location, design, and size of the fish. You may use a thick rubber liner covered with river stone, which works well for a natural, moderate depth pond that can sustain plant and fish. The risk of a high level of ammonia and bruising of the fish is possible. The second choice would be to use the thick rubber liner with no river stone that may provide a healthy habitat for the fish to live in. This method may be easier to clean. Concrete is another option that can be used. But it is a more expensive and creates a permanent fixture. You may need to contact your local building code office to make sure that permits are not required.



[Pond
Algae
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Maintaining Your Pond

In order to provide a filtration system, plants are essential. They provide a good food source and oxygenation to the water. Make sure to provide shade for the pond to minimize the rapid growth of algae. The life of the pond and fish are dependent on how well it is maintained. The cleanliness of the pond will prevent disease; and decrease the growth of algae, bacteria, and decaying debris. Make sure to conduct regular testing to check for unusual changes in condition and clear filters or mechanical apparatus of any foreign matter. If your fish are not surviving, you may need to check the air and water circulation. Oftentimes, deepening the pond will remedy the problem. Remember when maintaining or cleaning your pond, it is necessary to prepare a temporary location to house your fish to reduce loss or shock.

Care and Feeding

In order to have a successful pond, it is important to provide a healthy environment for the fish. Sudden changes in water temperature can be fatal to any fish, including the goldfish. You should never overfeed them or buy low quality food that will increase the amount of waste that may be produced. Goldfish should not be mixed with other tropical fish.



[Air Pump](#)

Goldfish Fry

Goldfish are egg layers and their eggs may be attached to aquatic vegetation. Within 48 to 72 hours, the eggs are released. Within a week or so, the fry will appear to look more like a goldfish. You may want to have a separate area in your pond for breeding in order to ensure the development of the eggs and prevent loss due to natural predators. It is recommended that young goldfish be fed a diet of brine shrimp.

Goldfish Adult

Goldfish will grow to sexual maturity if provided with adequate water and nutrition. They can and will breed in a pond setting if left alone. Males will chase the females by nudging them to release their eggs, which the males then fertilize.

Overfeeding should be monitored. One method to determine if you are properly feeding your goldfish is to check the feces. If a long string of waste hangs from the goldfish as they swim, then you are overfeeding. The choice of food is very important because goldfish need less protein and more carbohydrates. A proper goldfish diet consists of a floating pellet type food.

Medical Considerations

In order to prevent stressing the goldfish, or exposing them to disease, it is recommended that you limit handling them. They should only be handled during periods of cleaning or maintaining the pond.

Overfeeding is a common mistake made by many people and should be limited to what they can consume within five minutes. Excess food particles contribute to cloudy water, growth of bacteria, spread of disease and the development of algae.

Development of ammonia is another cause of health problems for the fish. A good filtration system should be used to minimize the exposure to health problems. Ponds that have plant or algae will keep the nitrate under control. For this reason, it is not advisable to clean the bottom of the pond spotless of all algae. Algae in the right proportion will act as an effective nitrate reducer. Overcrowding should be kept under control to minimize the solid waste, carbon dioxide and odor.

Necessary Items

Essential items include a pump to adequately supply the proper amount of oxygen throughout the pond. Plants are necessary items, because they provide a good source of food and shelter from predators. A filtration system may be needed to control the debris that may develop and a skimmer is needed to remove debris from the surface of the pond. The purchase of a thermometer is necessary to maintain a constant temperature for the goldfish to habitat.



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

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