

# Feeding Your Pond Fish



In established pools, where there is a good balance of plants, wildlife and fish, there will be plenty of natural food and feeding acts as a supplement to their diet, and is enjoyable for the pond keeper. However, in a pool which is heavily stocked or lacks plant life which attracts insects, feeding is vital to the fishes well being. Feeding correctly ensures good fish health, growth and ability to breed, and will allow the fish to build up enough reserves for the Winter.

There are a number of different foods available, offering different protein levels, health and colour enhancers. Some of these foods are designed for Winter feeding, containing wheat germ with lower protein levels which is easily digestible, while other foods contain higher protein levels and are only suitable for Summer feeding when the fish can easily digest food.

Care should be taken not to feed Summer foods in colder conditions. This can have extreme effects on the fishes health and water quality when the temperature rises.

When the water temperature is between 5-10°C in early Spring and late Autumn, and if the fish appear to be searching for food, you may need your fish on a "Winter food". In these climates, feeding once a day will be more than sufficient. Once the water temperature reaches 10°C+ feeding can be increased to two or three times a day, using a staple diet and then a high protein "Summer food".

When feeding, any uneaten food should be removed after 5 minutes and the use of a feeding ring will make this easier. This ensures that excess food will not pollute the water as it breaks down.