



Ripples of Thought

Dear Friends,

Each change of season brings a new and different kind of pleasure from your aquatic paradise.

Changes in seasons also bring with them different requirements for the care and maintenance of your pond. They also make it necessary to change the feeding habits of your fish.

Here are some tips on what needs to be done to transition your pond from the dog days of summer through the cooler fall season and into winter. Please read further for information on:

- Aquatic Plants
- Leaves
- Fish
- Winterization, Bubble Pumps, & Pond Heaters

If you have any questions or concerns we are always available so please call (845) 297-3460 or e-mail: info@bwlandscaping.com. B&W Landscaping can also supply the items you may need for your pond as well as provide the services you may not want to do yourself.

AQUATIC PLANTS:

At this time you should be removing dead parts of your plants. As we get closer to winter, marginal plants should be trimmed to approximately 2"-3" above the water level. Hardy water lilies should be cut to approximately 2"-3" from the base of the plant. Tropical plants should be moved indoors if you want to use them next year.

LEAVES:

Fall is a beautiful time of year with the majestic color of the leaves but when these leaves fall, your pond will need more attention than at other times of the year. It will be necessary to clean your skimmer more frequently and if you have a heavy leaf load a pond net is recommended. Some leaves will sink to the bottom before they can be swept into the skimmer. Leaves that are left to rot in the pond will eventually produce gasses that may be harmful to your fish.

FISH:

During late autumn and early fall it is beneficial to feed your fish more frequently because like many other of nature's creatures, they are storing up nutrition for their winter hibernation.

Pay special attention at this time to your water temperature. Once it is consistently below 55° feeding should be stopped as they will no longer be able to metabolize the food.

PREPARING FOR WINTER:

Now is the time to consider what you want to do with your pond for the winter. Leaving your pond running is truly a beautiful sight, however the ice that forms on the stream and pond can create problems as well. If you decide to leave your pond running it is advisable that you are prepared to shut your pond down and winterize it very quickly.

If you shut your pond down for the winter, a hole must be kept open in the ice for toxic gasses to escape for the well being of your fish. This is best accomplished with a bubbler pump or a pond heater.

A bubbler pump is recommended with a pond heater as a back up. The biofall and skimmer mats should be removed, rinsed, and stored inside. Depending on their condition they may need to be replaced in the spring. The pump and check valve should be removed and stored indoors with the pump in a bucket of water to protect the seals. Once the water has drained out of the biofall and hose to the skimmer it is recommended that a plug be installed in the bottom of the biofall to prevent rainwater and snow melt from entering the hose and freezing.



We all know the serenity and peace that our ponds bring us. B&W Landscaping is committed to helping you keep your pond in top form. I hope you have found this new seasonal service helpful in preparing your pond for the winter. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a Pond Clean Up and Winterization, please contact us.

**Sincerely,
*Bob Borden***

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