

## A SUCCESSFUL POND

A successful pond relies on some good planning right from the start so, before you fetch a shovel, it's important to have a clear plan. How big will it be? Are you going to keep fish? Are there any safety issues to consider? What pond equipment do you need to buy?

## planning

Building a pond or water feature, however small, involves outlay of both cash and effort. If you decide part way through that you've been over-ambitious it might prove to be difficult and expensive to undo what has already been done.

A precise plan is the best way to start, so you can make major decisions before rushing ahead into the project.

## position

- Don't place your pond in an area that stays wet.
- Avoid positions close to overhanging trees because leaf litter will contaminate the water.
- Don't dig in areas where there are power cords below ground.
- Choose a level site in an area which gets sunlight for at least half the day.
- Position the pond where it can be easily observed from the house.
- Always use a circuit breaker with any pond equipment installation.

## plants

- Plants are the key to healthy water. A balanced pond should contain all forms of plants; bog, oxygenators, lilies and floating plants.
- Plants play an important role in establishing a healthy, clear water environment.
- Floating plants combat green water and give shelter for fish from the heat of the day.

## fish

- The size of your pond determines how many fish it can accommodate.
- Deeper pools help to avoid the extremes of temperature which can be detrimental to fish.
- Koi are specialized fish and need much greater water volumes and space in a pond.
- Remember that fish are living creatures. Treat them with care and they'll repay you with years of enjoyment.
- Always buy pond fish from a reputable supplier.
- Don't be tempted to take fish from the wild as they often carry parasites and disease which will contaminate your pond.



Supervise children when feeding fish. Overfeeding will contaminate the pond water

## sunlight

Sunlight is an essential consideration when planning your pond and you should choose a spot where the pond will get at least half a day's sun. The energy of the sun is vital to both fish and plants. Fish become more active with the warmer water temperatures and plants need sunlight for proper growth.

## waterfalls & fountains

Waterfalls and fountains do more than look good. By creating movement on the pond surface, oxygen is added to the water. This is particularly helpful during hot weather when oxygen levels are depleted and fish become listless.



Plants bring shape, color and interest to a pond as well as help create good water conditions

## safety

- Excavating the hole for a large pond can be a strenuous job - enlist the help of friends or family and look after your back!
- If you have very young children you can build a safer feature like the Oriental Fountain Pond on page 50.
- Use a pond cover for exposed ponds where children play.



Children are fascinated by water. Put their safety first at all times.