

THE BUYING DECISION

When purchasing pond fish, look at the overall picture before making the purchase. Here are questions that should be asked before purchasing pond fish to assure healthy, stress free, and disease free animals:

1 . Are there any dead fish in the tanks the fish are being sold out of? One dead fish could be an indicator of many sick fish.

TIP: Look closely at the fins of the fish, and the sides of the body. Have the seller show you the fish up close once it is bagged.

2 . Does the breeder/dealer use [Ultraviolet Sterilization](#) to prevent disease and parasites?

3 . How often are the fish systems cycled? 2-3 times a day when full is optimal.

4 . Is fresh water added into the systems treated with a first rate water conditioner like [Koi TLC](#) to ensure all harmful metals are neutralized and slime coat added?

TRANSPORTING YOUR FISH

- 1) Float the bag in the pond for 10 min.
- 2) Gently release the fish into the pond

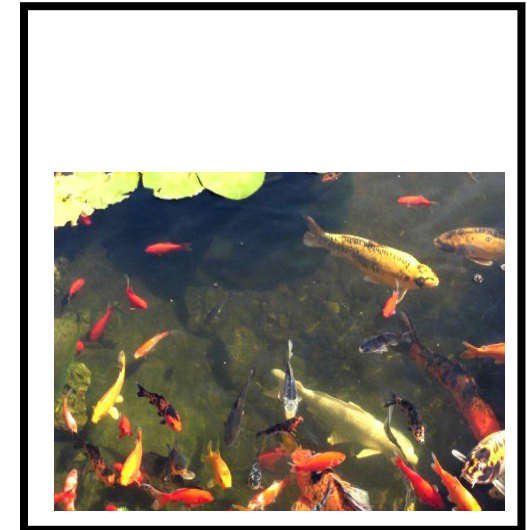
Note: Above 85 degrees, float times will be cut in half or less. PLEASE ALWAYS ASK!

Once the fish purchased is/are bagged up and packaged, there are approximately 45 minutes to get the fish to the pond, acclimated, and set free unless the animal(s) has been specially packaged for a longer trip.



Pond Fish Checklist

- [Water Conditioner](#)
- [Beneficial Bacteria](#)
- [Test Kits/Strips](#)
- [Temperature relevant Food](#)
- [Feeding Ring](#)
- [Pond Thermometer](#)
- [Fish Net](#)



Hardy Pond Fish

Toll Free :1-800-577-5605

Local: 314-894-2894

www.pondmarket.com

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St. Louis MO 63129

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KOI

Koi are the centerpiece and often the main attraction of the pond.



They require a substantial amount of water to live and thrive. Koi that are

introduced into ponds less than 800-1000 gallons often have to be given away after 3-4 years because they grow too large for the



pond they live in. Koi require good [water quality](#): nitrite and ammonia free and with a balanced pH.

Their water should be [tested](#) once a week in spring and fall and biweekly in the summer.

It is wise to plan an adequate [filtration](#) system for their adult size

CHARACTERISTICS OF KOI

Koi can live to be upwards of 80 years in ideal conditions, become extremely tame, and come in a wide variety of different colors and patterns. True varieties are rare and



expensive as back breeding has often caused dull colors and unsymmetrical



patterns. Koi typically eat 2-4 times a day and grow very fast. They require high quality [fish foods](#) pertinent to

temperature to maintain their color and shape. Koi tend to feed on water [plants](#), therefore koi ponds should have separate areas for the [plants](#) and Koi. There are many tools to keep Koi and help train them to eat out of your hand. [Feeding rings](#) and [Koi treats](#) are a couple of them.

GOLDFISH

Common Goldfish: require less elaborate [filter systems](#), pristine [water](#)



[quality](#), or regular [feeding](#) if enough [plants](#) are in the pond for them to eat. They can be fun and delightful with minimal

maintenance and they grow in proportion to their environment, usually no larger than 12”.

Shubunkin and Sarasa:



Shubunkin and Sarasa are a good Koi substitute in smaller Ponds. They have many similar colors as Koi but do not need as much space. Some varieties have beautiful long fins. They grow to the



same size as other Gold fish.

Fantail and Calico Fantail: Fantails are cute little puffy balls with beautiful fins.



Many people call them “tri-tails” or the “fish with three tails” because the shape and size of the tails

often gives the impression there are more than one tail. Fantails are a great addition to any pond. Fantails come in a wide variety of colors too!

GOLDEN ORFE



Orfe are very fast! They require similar conditions as Koi but do not get as large. Orfe need to be kept in groups of three or more.

POND FISH HUSBANDRY

Pond fish are one of the easiest pets to care for if the right conditions are provided. Here are a few important things to remember:

- 1) [Feeding](#) pond fish is necessary in man made [lined](#) ponds. Natural earth bottom ponds provide lots of food for fish where lined ponds do not.
- 2) What and when to [feed](#) pond fish depends on the water [temperature](#). The warmer weather requires high protein diets where cooler weather requires wheat germ based foods. Pond [Thermometers](#) are a great way to know what and when to feed.
- 3) Pond fish should not be fed more than they can eat in a 5 minute period of time. [Feeding rings](#) keep food in one place and make monitoring feeding easier.
- 4) Fresh water cannot be added without treating it first with an [all in one conditioner](#). Add the treatment to the pond and turn on the hose. Use enough treatment to treat the water being added. Fresh water should be added weekly.
- 5) Ponds with fish should be [tested](#) weekly in the spring and fall and biweekly in summer months. Keeping the pH balanced and monitoring harmful ammonia and nitrite is key to fish health and keeping algae under control.
- 6) [Beneficial bacteria](#) should be used weekly to monthly (depending on the product) to help keep the pond balanced, fish waste from accumulating and the environment healthy for the fish.
- 7) It is a good idea to keep a [first aid kit](#) for pond fish around to possible injuries and diseases quickly before they spread.