

Design and Build Your Very Own Koi Pond

Written by Anne Clarke
Sunday, 20 May 2007
Last Updated Sunday, 20 May 2007

Some of the most beautiful fish in the world, koi are actually very common in outdoor landscaping. Homes with wonderful gardens and outdoor ponds are some of the best looking outdoor eye-candy. Many people, especially garden and pond lovers are perfectly content to maintain a koi pond – despite the high maintenance.

1. There are many conditions to consider before you begin:

- o Koi is a very delicate kind of pond fish, therefore, it is likely that you will need a pond constructed perfectly to fit their needs.

- o There are absolutely specific guidelines to following when you construct a koi pond of your own.

2. Finding the very best location for your koi pond:

- o A koi pond should be designed without direct sunlight as much as possible. Find a good place in the shade for your koi pond before you begin.

- o Finding a beautiful place for your koi pond in the shade of trees. Of course, foliage (especially full foliage) can be a real mess, and will certainly require a significant amount of cleaning.

- o Some people consider other options for the location of your koi pond.

- o However, select place that is most convenient for you. There are many kinds of garden equipment that will seem like they are designed to help you maintain your koi pond.

- a) Koi ponds can be partially if not completely covered in shade by a garden bridge.

- b) Ivy archways are another great idea for keeping your koi pond in the shade. Not only do they provide shade for your garden pond – but the archways will act as a netting device to help lower the maintenance of falling foliage when it does happen.

c) Other great ideas for keeping your koi pond nice and cool is to include water plants such as water lilies and lotus flowers.

3. Construction: let's get down to the actual building of the pond.

o Because koi are big fishes compared to almost every other kind of pond fish, they require a larger space. The koi fish in your garden pond can grow to be approximately three feet long.

o A minimum of five feet in depth is absolutely important for your koi fish pond. If the pond is too shallow the fish will not survive.

o In the simplest terms: determine the exact measurements of your koi pond before you begin to build.

4. How to construct the overall design:

o There are a couple of ways to construct the bottom of the pond once you have dug the hole and come up with an overall design. Often, people will want to have certain spaces in which the koi can hide and remain in completely shade.

a) Pond liner. A pond liner is a very typical way to design and create a pond – many people choose to use a pond liner. It will be very important to install your pond liner exactly the way it should be installed. Therefore, be sure to know your space and how the pond liner will fit.

b) Cement landscaping. Cement is useful in landscaping in many different ways. As a matter of fact, I prefer cement to any other method for building a koi pond. But it is very important that you are dedicated to your idea.

c) Pond accessories. Stones and rocks are, in my opinion, the greatest addition you can make to improve your garden pond. Layered stones and rocks are elegant, luxurious and there is a virtually endless amount of designs to choose from. Waterfalls, personalized designs, creations that are symmetrical or asymmetrical, rocks and stones can even provide shade and cool hiding places for your koi. However, that does not mean that the rest of the water can be in the light.

Gardening hobbies such as building and maintaining a koi pond is wonderful work, as a can be the most relaxing of hobbies, and the most and creative ways to relax. It is a great idea for any gardening enthusiast – you'll feel great especially when you have an elegant, custom built koi pond to enjoy. Hobbies such as maintaining a koi pond can be relaxing for everyone. Watching koi swimming happily around a luxurious koi pond is a wonderful experience.

Anne Clarke writes numerous articles for websites on gardening, parenting, and the environment. Her background includes teaching and gardening. For more of her articles on garden ponds, please visit Koi Ponds.