



Tips for PREPARING YOUR POND FOR FALL

*Brought to you by Del & Holly Dowding of
Dowding Water Gardens
"Everything for your pond!"
www.DowdingWaterGardens.ca*

This is the time when some preparation for the long cold winter will pay off in the spring.

- Start in August when you stop fertilizing your plants. Plants need to rest and go dormant. Do not fertilize or divide at this time of year.
- In September or early October stop feeding your fish. Their digestive system needs to be empty going into the dormant state. IN cold water if their gut isn't cleaned out the food could rot and become toxic.
- Tropical plants should be disposed of into the compost with the exception of a couple of special ones you may want to try and winter over. Be careful of aphids and spider mites when bringing these plants inside.
- Hardy plants should be cut back to the top of the pots and placed in the lowest part of the pond with the exception of rushes with hollow stems. Water traveling through these hollow stems and later freezing will kill these plants.
- Move fish and store them in pond water with a small bubbler if possible and covered.
- When you are cleaning the pond just a hosing off and removing sludge from the bottom is all that is required. Do not use any form of cleaners! Residue will kill your fish and will break down the natural bacteria of your pond ecosystem.
- Never leave your pump sitting on the bottom of the pond in the winter. This could super chill your pond if left running. If you choose, raise the pump up to 12"-18" within the surface.
- If you choose to take the pump in, clean and store in distilled water if possible. This will keep most seals from drying out and causing pump failures.

Note: Ponds without a 3' deep section will need special instructions

© 2003, 2004 Dowding Water Gardens, Mt. Brydges, Ontario
(519) 264-2716 www.DowdingWaterGardens.ca

This information sheet may be freely posted or distributed providing copyright information and link are prominently displayed.