

Stocking Koi & Goldfish

Unfortunately, ponds can not support an unlimited number of fish. It is important to balance the fish population in relation to the total number of gallons in the pond. Other factors to take into consideration are the type of fish, the surface area of the water, and the type of filtration on the pond.

As a general rule, the normal stocking level in a goldfish pond is 7" of fish per 100 gallons of water. Three or four times as large as mature goldfish, koi obviously need more space for proper swimming, exercise, and muscular development. For that reason, the common stocking formula for koi is ½" of fish per square foot of surface area. For example, in a 10' x 10' pond with 100 square feet of water surface you should only stock 50" of koi. This may mean only two or three adult koi. There are two methods for determining the length of your fish. The standard method measures from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. For the total length, measure from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. When determining fish stocking levels, most people use the standard method.

While you might be able to have a few fish and not have a filter, once you begin to approach the maximum stocking level it is important to have proper filtration on your pond. As the number of fish in the pond increases, it is also important to increase oxygen levels with a venturi or a recirculating pump feeding a waterfall or stream. Even with extra aeration, koi are simply not suitable in a small pond. Always remember that it is easier to add a couple more fish than to relocate existing fish when you realize your pond is overstocked.