



South Hants Koi Club

Koi Health and Welfare

Feeding

- 1. The nutritional wellbeing of your Koi in an artificial environment depends upon YOU. A well balanced temperature driven feeding regime is one of the important ingredients if you want to successfully keep Koi.**
- 2. Use only food from a recognized manufacturer specifically prepared for Koi – a general ‘across the board’ fish food is not suitable in obtaining the ‘best’ from your ‘living jewels’.**
- 3. Do not use poorly stored ‘out-of-date’ Koi food. This may well lead to the degeneration of vitamins and the oxidation of fats. Vitamin deficiencies take 2 – 3 months to manifest and can cause fin and skin hemorrhages. Unless diagnosed rapidly, it may well lead to losses.**
- 4. Commercially prepared foods should contain sufficient nutrition for healthy diets and colour enhancement. Some sources feel that enhancing feeds with multi-vitamin additives, orange, honey, garlic, oils, clays etc can obtain benefits. **Sensibly augmented supplements are likely to be beneficial.****
- 5. There are many ‘specialist’ Koi foods on the market such as high Spirulina, colour enhancers, premium mixes, etc. which may be of benefit to you if you intend to exhibit your Koi.**
- 6. Do not use feed with protein levels higher than the level that can be absorbed by the Koi’s digestive system. The absorption rate is dependent upon pond water temperature at the time of feeding. All non-digested proteins will be excreted as part of the waste products and added to the contamination of the pond water.**
- 7. There is varying advice on the feeding of Koi. The parameters we have adopted are:**



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- a. **Only feed high protein food (Say 40%+ protein) at water temperatures above 18 deg.C; otherwise the additional protein will not be absorbed and will be excreted. These feeds are beneficial for 'high growth'.**
 - b. **Use lower protein diets (i.e. protein content 30% to 40% approx.) in the pond water temperature range from 12/ 14 deg.C upwards. There is no upper temperature limit to the use of this feed**
 - c. **For water temperatures below 12/ 14 deg.C., only feed wheat germ diets.**
 - d. **Do not feed at water temperatures below 8 deg.C. (on a falling temperature) and we recommence feeding sparingly again at 7 deg.C. (on a rising temperature).**
8. **The metabolism of the Koi is virtually dormant by 3 – 5 deg.C. Any feed given during periods of very low temperatures are unlikely to be digested and can remain in the intestinal track if not excreted, and will putrefy. This is likely to lead to infection and loss of your Koi.**
9. Feed 2 – 4 times daily with a sufficient quantity of food that can be eaten within 3 – 5 minutes. Overfeeding **does not** benefit your Koi and excess food is likely to be passed through the intestinal track undigested to pollute your pond water.
10. Although 'sinking' pellets are advantageous at times especially with unwell or shy Koi, we prefer to mainly use 'floating' pellets as it gives you the opportunity to 'hand feed' and build up a better relationship with your Koi. In addition, it will allow you to carry out a partial visual examination to help identify the on-set of any possible health problems.
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