



## *Bucks Country Gardens*

### **Installing A Yard Pond**

Select a location on your property where the ground is fairly even and the pond will get a minimum of six hours of sunlight (no more if Koi are to be kept) per day. It is best not to place the pond directly under trees, since the falling leaves can foul the water and the tree roots will make digging difficult. Freeform your pond in any design you choose, using a heavy garden hose or a heavy rope to lay out your design.

Using a level, dig two or three tiers in your pond. Fish benefit from a shallow area (feeding on insects,) and a deep area provides them security. The tiers can be used to place plants such as lilies. Depending on your climate your pond at the deep area should be anywhere from 24" to 40". The shallow area can be 4" to 12".

When constructing your pond, you should line the ground with sand, carpet padding, or even old newspapers. This will protect your pond liner against sharp, protruding objects (roots, or rocks.)

Place your liner loosely over the pond, holding it in place with bricks or other heavy objects. Fill the pond with water. Your liner will conform to the design of the pond on the top and below the surface as it is weightier by water.

To create a professional look, build a rock border around your pond, allowing the rocks to overlap the water by 1"-2". The excess liner can be tucked under the border or trimmed. Be sure to allow excess if you trim, since your pond will settle. Flat rocks and/or washed sand make a decorative interior for your pond.

Install the Tetra Brilliant G-Filter and treat your pond water with Tetra Aqua-Safe Pond Formula. Add plants , then wait several days, add a few fish, and wait an additional 30 days to add the balance of your fish. This will ensure your pond and filter are biologically ready to support aquatic life. Rinse your Tetra foam filter regularly (10-14 days) to ensure adequate air flow.

Feed your fish Tetra Pond Food or Tetra Dorofin daily. They are best fed in the morning, only the amount they can consume in a few minutes.

#### **IN THE WINTER**

If you live in an area with harsh winters, remove the Tetra Brilliant G-Filter at the first frost. Unless the water will freeze completely to its lowest depth, pool and pond fish (large Common and Comet goldfish) and plants can remain year round. The metabolism of these fish directly relates to water temperatures. During the winter they will be dormant, and even if the ice melts never feed them since the food will only contaminate the water. At the onset of Spring (as soon as the water temperature reaches 50 degrees F) reinstall your filter and begin feeding your fish. Your pond is simple to construct, it's easy to maintain, and it will provide years and years of trouble free enjoyment.