

THE FILTERING SYSTEM

The following is an extract from the South African Koi Keepers Society website

<http://www.sakks.co.za>

Now that you have built the pond including a suitable filtering system and filled it all with water, *(remember to meter the water so that you know the exact amount of water in the system for future when you need to put medication in the water)* and are at the point of stocking the pond, remember one *very* important rule. Small fish become big fish over a period 2 to 3 years. Also, when you overstock your pond, you cause deterioration of the water quality as the filter system can not sustain the system. A crowded pond will stunt the fishes' growth. **Avoid Crowding,**

Many a Koi keeper has paid dearly for overcrowding a pond. One way to enhance the carrying capacity of your pond is to have maximal filtration and aeration. Another is to employ a vegetable filter and also to do water changes pretty regularly, all as suggested above. One more important item to consider, electricity supply to your suburb is not guaranteed. Thus, if the power goes down for a couple of hours so does your system. **RATHER UNDERSTOCK THAN HAVE A DISSASTER.** Some keen Koi keepers even have a standby generator in case this happens, especially when the pond is heavily stocked, and believe us it has saved many a Koi in that sort of situation.

Below is a table that was calculated by using Doc Johnson's crowding formulae. All you need do is tally the total fish length in Cm and then you will see what water volume you require, for your Koi to live in comfort.

Fish length in Cm	Recommended m ³		Fish length in Cm	Recommended m ³	
	Lower	Upper		Lower	Upper
200	2.0	4.1	650	21.5	42.9
250	3.2	6.3	700	24.9	49.8
300	4.6	9.1	750	28.6	57.1
350	6.2	12.4	800	32.5	65.0
400	8.1	16.3	850	36.7	73.4
450	10.3	20.6	900	41.1	82.3
500	12.7	25.4	950	45.8	91.7
550	15.4	30.7	1000	50.8	101.6
600	18.3	36.6			

NOTE: As the fish grow you will have to re- visit the Crowding Formula, to ensure that you are not overcrowding.

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The following data was obtained from a graph produced by a fish and game department.

First years growth up to 23cm, with a possible weight of 0.2kg

Second years growth upto 38cm, with a possible weight of 0.93kg

Third years growth upto 48cm, with a possible weight of 1.88kg

Fourth years growth upto 58cm, with a possible weight of 3.30kg

The above figures could vary vastly as it all depend on environmental circumstances. And the feed that they get

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