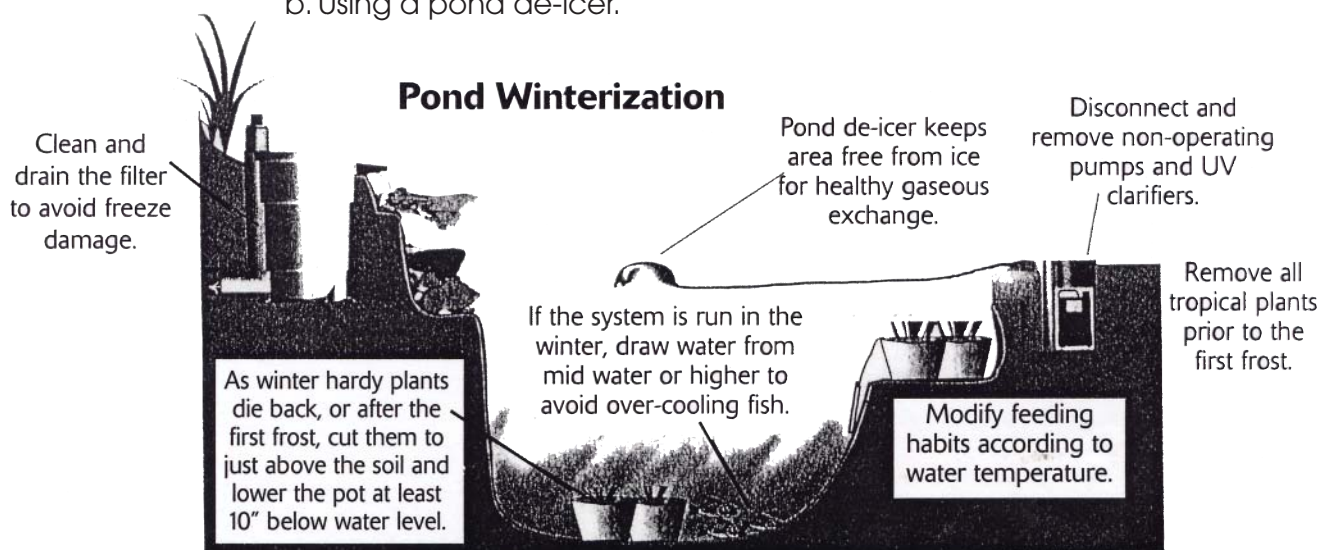
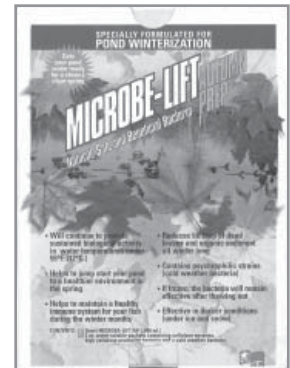




10 Steps for Winterizing Water Gardens

1. Feed fish a low protein food when water is below 60°. Stop feeding when water temperature drops below 55°.
2. Discard tropical floating plants.
3. Bring tropical marginals (such as umbrella plants) indoors as houseplants. Some tropical marginals (such as tropical lilies) may be stored as dormant roots. Otherwise, discard tropicals and buy new plants in the spring.
4. Cut back foliage of hardy marginal plants, water lilies and lotus. Submerge the cleaned-up plants in the deepest part of the pond.
(For more information about overwintering water plants see the other side of this handout.)
5. Clean out as much debris and vegetative matter as possible.
6. Treat pond with MICROBE-LIFT® AUTUMN PREP, a beneficial bacteria that is active in cooler water, combined with an enzyme to break down and digest sludge.
7. Clean pumps and filters; remove from pond if they are not going to run in the winter.
8. Put a net over the pond to keep more leaves and debris out. Suspend net over the water, not in the water.
9. Drain external filters and lines that are subject to freezing.
10. Keep water from freezing completely by:
 - a. Leaving waterfall running (but watch water level).
 - b. Using a pond de-icer.



Overwintering Water Plants

There are a few easy steps you can take to put your water plants "to bed" for the winter and keep them as a beneficial part of your pond's ecosystem. Next spring will be the time to divide and re-pot them.

WATER LILIES

Hardy

- trim off foliage
- move to the deepest part of the pond

Tropical — before a hard freeze

- remove from the pond
- trim off leaves and most roots
- wash off roots
- store in moist peat moss or sand in a cool, non-freezing location

MARGINAL/BOG PLANTS

Hardy

- trim back 1-2" above water level
- most can be left in place
- alternately, many can be removed from the pond and buried in the garden (iris, horsetail, lobelia, houttunynia)

Tropical

- bring indoors as houseplant
- give bright, direct light and keep in a deep saucer of water
- some plants like taro, calla and canna can be stored dormant as roots in moist peat in a cool, dark, non-freezing location

OXYGENATORS

Hardy oxygenators like anacharis, hornwort and parrot's feather can survive submerged. These plants multiply so fast, just save some by removing excess surface foliage and sinking the shortened stems. Discard the rest.

FLOATING PLANTS

Water hyacinths and water lettuce should be discarded after the first frost so dying foliage doesn't foul the water. These plants don't overwinter well indoors. Start with new ones next spring.

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