

# **KOI – PREVENTING DISEASE**

**DISEASE IN KOI CAN BE REDUCED BY CONTROL AND LIMIT THE LEVELS OF STRESS TO WHICH KOI ARE EXPOSED. STRESS CAN BE REDUCED IF YOU HAVE A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF WATER QUALITY.**

**MANY DISEASE PROBLEMS CAN BE STOPPED BY SIMPLY MAINTAINING OPTIMUM WATER CONDITIONS. TESTING POND WATER SHOULD BE A KEY PART OF YOUR KOI HEALTHCARE REGIME. PH, AMMONIA, NITRITE, NITRATE AND CARBONATE HARDNESS (KH) CAN BE RECTIFIED SHOULD A PROBLEM ARISE.**

**A POND WITH GOOD FILTRATION THE PROCESS OF NITRIFICATION WHICH OCCURS IN THE BIOLOGICAL FILTER WILL BREAK DOWN AMMONIA, WHICH IS BOTH PRODUCED BY KOI AS WASTE AND RELEASED FROM DECOMPOSING ORGANIC MATTER INTO NITRITE. THE NEXT STAGE INVOLVES NITRITE BEING CONVERTED INTO NITRATE.**

**KOI ARE HAPPY IN WATER WITH PH BETWEEN 7 - 8.5 AS LONG AS IT REMAINS CONSTANT. A RAPID PH CHANGE, KOI WILL START TO BEHAVE ERRATICALLY AND TRY TO ESCAPE FROM THE POND BY JUMPING, INCREASED GILL MOVEMENTS AND THE ABILITY OF THE GILLS TO EXTRACT OXYGEN FROM THE WATER WILL DECREASE, WHICH RESULT IN KOI BECOMING VERY STRESSED LEAVING THEM SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFECTION.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WILL STRESS KOI EVEN THE SIMPLEST OF ROUTINE TASKS. CHANGES IN WATER TEMPERATURE CAUSE STRESS. OVERSTOCKING AND UNNECESSARY HANDLING SHOULD ALSO BE AVOIDED.**

**KEEPING A WELL-MAINTAINED POND AND OBSERVING GOOD HUSBANDRY SHOULD ALSO SPEED UP THE RECOVERY PROCESS WHEN DISEASES DO OCCUR. TREATING KOI WITH MEDICATIONS MAY BE STRESSFUL TO FISH, THUS OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ARE REQUIRED THROUGHOUT.**

**A LIST OF DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY AND HALF-YEARLY TASKS TO GOOD HUSBANDRY AND SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM TIP TOP PETS IN CENTURION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KOI, PLEASE CONTACT US TEL NO. (012) 643-1533.**

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