

Pond owners that are searching for that new years resolution should consider resolving to initiate and maintain record keeping with your pond. Record keeping is one of the most important steps in making a pond successful. Water quality, fish condition, and pond balance are among the many factors that influence fishing experience and should be recorded in a pond's records.

Water quality data including alkalinity and hardness should be monitored periodically to ensure optimal growing conditions for your fish. A simple water quality kit available in most pet stores can be used to begin developing a profile for your pond. Record results in a notebook each time you measure. Fish condition should also be recorded when possible. Lengths, weights, and species are a good start, but anything that is out of the ordinary should also be recorded. From this information, you can begin to get a picture of the balance of your pond. If you find your pond out of balance, this information will help you decide what to do to regain balance. Additionally, if you seek advice from a pond expert, this information will assist in the evaluation of the pond's overall health.

Other items that should be noted in a pond's records, is movement of pond weeds, dramatic changes in the pond's color or smell over a short period of time. If you restock fish into your pond, you should note the number, species, date, and supplier. If you add chemical treatments, the date, and application rate should be recorded.

Record keeping may sound like a hassle but you can make it easy on yourself. Put a mailbox at the pond side and keep your record book in there. Waterproof paper is available and durable. Use pencil, which will not run when it gets wet. Having the record book readily available will help you get into the habit of recording this important information. Should you ever run into a problem with your pond, your efforts will pay off when you call a pond expert for help.

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