

O W E N J O N E S

Keepingtext  
Keeping **KOI** Carp



Creating and Maintaining a  
Koi Carp Pond

H O W T O . . . S E R I E S



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Owen Jones

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# Keeping Koi Carp

*The oldest ornamental fish in the world!*

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by

**Owen Jones**

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Published by

Megan Publishing Services

<http://meganthemisconception.com>

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Fourth Edition

Hello and thank you for buying this ebook called ***Keeping Koi Carp***.

Welcome to the enchanting world of Koi carp keeping, where beauty, serenity, and the art of aquatic care converge. This beginner's manual is designed to be your gateway into the captivating realm of these exquisite ornamental fish. Whether you're a newcomer to the aquatic hobby or an enthusiast seeking to expand your knowledge, this guide will provide you with essential insights to ensure the well-being and vitality of your Koi.

Despite being found worldwide, and being inextricably linked to China and Japan, they actually originated in the bodies of fresh water around the Black, Caspian and Aral Seas. Koi carp have transcended their humble beginnings to become cherished symbols of tranquillity and harmony in water gardens around the globe. Their dazzling array of colours, elegant patterns, and graceful movements make them living masterpieces that can transform any pond into a living canvas.

*Keeping Koi Carp* is tailored to equip beginners with the fundamental principles of Koi care. From selecting the ideal pond environment and understanding water quality management to mastering proper feeding practices and recognizing common health concerns, this manual serves as your compass on this aquatic journey. As you embark on this adventure, remember that Koi keeping is not merely a hobby; it's an ongoing relationship that deepens with time.

Dive into the pages ahead and unlock the secrets to fostering a thriving Koi community that will not only enrich your outdoor space but also nurture your connection with nature's aquatic wonders.

After goldfish, koi carp are the most popular ornamental fish in the world. In fact, many keepers of koi started with goldfish and 'progressed' from there.

Anyway, I hope that you will find the information herein both helpful and profitable.

The content of this ebook on Koi garden ponds and related subjects is organized into eighteen chapters, which will help you choose a site for your Koi Carp Pond, set up and maintain it all year around and look after your valuable fish during the various seasons and even in particularly adverse weather conditions.

It may even help you venture out into a new career. The least that it will do is save you hundreds on professional advice.

As an added bonus, I am granting you permission to use the content on your own website or in your own blogs and newsletter, although it is better if you rewrite it in your own words first.

If you have any feedback, please leave it with the company you bought this book from.

You can find more books like this where you bought this one too.

Regards,

**Owen Jones.**

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## *Japanese Koi Carp Breeds*

In the enchanting realm of Koi keeping, Japanese Koi carp breeds stand as the epitome of artistry and reverence for nature's splendour. Originating from the rice paddies of Japan, these exquisite fish have been meticulously bred over centuries to showcase an astonishing array of colours, patterns, and traits. Each breed carries with it a story, a legacy of craftsmanship, and a testament to the intricate relationship between humans and aquatic beauty. In this chapter, we delve into the captivating world of Japanese Koi carp breeds, each a masterpiece in its own right.

**Kohaku (Koi with White Body and Red Patterns):**

Kohaku, meaning "red and white," is a timeless and revered breed. With a pure white body adorned by vibrant red patterns, Kohaku exemplifies the essence of simplicity and elegance. The balance between the white and red is a hallmark of quality, with the red markings appearing well-defined and evenly distributed. Kohaku captures the serene beauty that is the heart of Koi appreciation.

**Taisho Sanke (Koi with White Body, Red, and Black Patterns):**

Taisho Sanke, often referred to as Sanke, exemplifies the harmonious interplay of three colours: white, red, and black. This breed captures attention with its striking contrast and balanced distribution of colours. The boldness of the black markings against the white canvas, complemented by the vibrant red accents, creates a visual spectacle that embodies both tradition and modern elegance.

**Showa (Koi with Black Body, Red, and White Patterns):**

Showa, a breed named after the era in which it was developed, presents a captivating fusion of black, red, and white. The base black colour is



adorned with red and white markings, forming a visually captivating contrast. The arrangement and intensity of the three colours define the quality of Showa specimens, making each fish a living work of art that reflects the Koi breeder's mastery.

**Tancho (Koi with a Single Red Spot on the Head):**

Tancho, inspired by the Japanese flag, features a solitary red spot on its head against a white background. The beauty of Tancho lies in its simplicity—a single, vividly coloured circle that symbolizes purity and elegance. Tancho can be found in various base colours, making each one a unique expression of this iconic pattern.

**Bekko (Koi with Coloured Body and Black Patterns):**

Bekko is characterized by its coloured body—white, red, or yellow—accented by black markings. The black markings are typically limited to the head and dorsal area, creating a striking contrast against the base colour. Bekko exemplifies simplicity and understated beauty, with a focus on the interplay between colour and pattern.

**Utsurimono (Koi with Black Body and White, Red, or Yellow Patterns):**

Utsurimono encompasses Koi breeds with a black base colour and white (Shiro Utsuri), red (Hi Utsuri), or yellow (Ki Utsuri) markings. The vivid contrast between the base colour and the vibrant markings creates a captivating and dramatic effect. Utsurimono breeds highlight the skill of Koi breeders in achieving striking patterns on a dark canvas.

**Asagi and Shusui (Koi with Blue-Gray Pattern on Back):**

Asagi and Shusui breeds showcase a unique blue-gray pattern on their dorsal regions, reminiscent of pine cone scales. Asagi Koi maintain their original scales, while Shusui are scaleless (Doitsu). The distinctive pattern creates a serene and natural beauty, reminiscent of the serene landscapes of Japan.

**Ogon (Solid Metallic Koi):**

Ogon, which means “gold” in Japanese, are solid metallic Koi with lustrous scales that reflect light, creating a captivating shimmer. Available in gold, platinum, and silver varieties, Ogon epitomizes grace and simplicity while adding a touch of opulence to any Koi pond.

**Kin Gin Rin (Metallic Koi with Glittering Scales):**

Kin Gin Rin breeds feature metallic scales adorned with sparkling glitter, adding an enchanting touch to their appearance. The shimmering effect is

further amplified when sunlight dances on their scales, creating a magical play of light on the water's surface.

Doitsu (Scaleless Koi):

Doitsu Koi are characterized by their scaleless bodies, with large, mirror-like scales along the dorsal and lateral lines. Doitsu varieties can encompass other breeds, allowing the colours and patterns to be showcased more prominently on their unique body structure.

Each Japanese Koi breed is a testament to the dedication and passion of breeders who have honed their skills over generations. When embracing these breeds in your pond, you become a steward of tradition, a witness to nature's wonders, and a custodian of the artistry that binds us to the aquatic world. Allow the hues, patterns, and stories of these exquisite fish to enrich your life and awaken your appreciation for the timeless beauty they represent.



## ***How to Build a Backyard Koi Fish Pond***

A backyard fish pond will augment the beauty of your garden, there is no question about that. A backyard fish pond will add a focal point to a scruffy garden and will make a beautiful backyard or garden even more interesting.

There is something happy about the gurgling and splashing of fresh water.

However, in spite of the massive upside of having a backyard fish pond, there is also the question of maintenance. This is not an arduous task, but it is ongoing and does need to be carried out on a regular basis.

Everybody loves a backyard fish pond. If you already have one, you can bear witness to the fact that guests, friends and family like to spend time sitting around the edge of your pond watching the fish go about their lazy lifestyles and listening to the sound of running and splashing water. It seems to fascinate humans and it is therapeutic.

If you do not already have a pond, but want one, the first step is to choose where to locate it. A few suggestions here:

1] do not put it at a low point in the garden or it might flood when it rains and your fish could swim away.

2] try not to place it under a tree or you will spend the rest of your life pulling foliage out of the water

3] do try to put your backyard fish pond where it will be at least in partial shade at midday

Once you have the best site, you have to think about size and shape. The most popular shapes are: round, square, oval and kidney shaped. The depth of the water is also significant if you live in an area that is subject to freezing. Thirty to



forty-five inches is enough in most instances, but it would be worth asking neighbours or the local pet shop for guidance.

Once your pond is in place, you can set up your equipment. You will have to have a pump to suck the debris out of the water and forward it to the pond filter. However, this pump will let plant debris to pass through it, so if you would like a fountain, you will almost certainly need another pump, otherwise the fountain's jets will become blocked by rotting vegetation.

If this all seems a bit much, you can buy a pond kit which contains all the bits and pieces you will require to set up a backyard fish pond. One tip here,; if you get solar-powered equipment, it will save on electrician's fees and you will never have an electricity bill for your backyard fish pond.

After fitting the pumps, filter and fountain, you can fill the pond up with water and turn the devices on. The water is inappropriate for fish at the moment, so just allow the apparatus run in and the water mature. This will take a week for the water. Meanwhile, choose your fish and plants and make any hidey-holes you want to put in for your fish.

When the week is up, you can add your plants and populate your backyard fish pond with fish.



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