

## Frequently asked questions

Q: *Do the fish eat the manure or other fertilizer added to a pond, and will this affect their taste when harvested?*

A: No, the fish do not eat the various fertilizers added to the pond. These fertilizers break down to form the food source for microscopic animals (i.e. zooplankton, like daphnia and copepods) and microscopic plants (phytoplankton, like algae) that are eaten by the fish. These are the natural foods that wild fish eat and do not affect the flavour of the fish flesh when eaten by humans.

Q: *Is it possible to over-fertilize a pond?*

A: Yes, if too much is added the pond water becomes anoxic (lacking in oxygen) and the fish will die.

Q: *Do I still have to artificially feed the fish if the pond is fertilized with compost or manure?*

A: To obtain maximum production, yes. Fertilizing a pond may increase production by 30-40% over non-fertilized ponds, but feeding the fish an artificial diet will further increase production by another 30-40% or more. However, if feed is very expensive or unobtainable, then it may be more economic to just fertilize the pond only, and make do with a lower production, but at lower input costs. Each situation is different.

