Koi Food for Thought

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Recently the koi industry appears to have been all ears about the advisability of including corn in MAZURI® diets. For more than 104 years nutritionists at Purina Mills, Inc. have been perfecting our diets to provide the best possible nutrition for the animals under our care—which is why we’d like to set the record straight.

Like all extruded fish feeds, MAZURI® koi diets use carbohydrates to permit floating through the gelatinization and expansion processes during manufacturing. All other brands of floating koi feed also include at least one major carbohydrate source.

Foods made in different parts of the world incorporate different carbohydrate sources, depending on quality, price and availability. Wheat is often used in other parts of the world. However MAZURI® koi diets are manufactured in our ISO 9002 Certified facility in Richmond, Indiana—in the center of the corn belt of the United States where corn is abundant and of excellent quality.

Regardless of whether the starch (carbohydrate) in koi feed comes from wheat or corn, it is made of amylose and amylopectin, which has been gelatinized and is readily digestible for fish.

Lately people have suggested substituting fish, shrimp and crab meals for corn. These are all protein concentrates and may NOT be substituted for carbohydrate sources. Crab meat is also prohibitively high in mineral content, which has been proven not to be good for promoting koi longevity. These minerals often foul the water.

MAZURI® only includes crab meal or shrimp meal in low levels for palatability. However we DO include very high levels of high quality fish meal in our MAZURI Platinum Koi food as a protein source.

In reality, excessive fat deposition in the abdominal cavity and/or the liver of koi results from an improper dietary protein to energy ratio. Simply put, the fish may be consuming too much energy. Unfortunately, overfeeding is a common practice for many koi enthusiasts.

Nutritionists at Purina make sure the amino acid profile in every MAZURI® diet is appropriate for koi. The corn is our diets is OK because it is balanced to provide the best nutrition for your fish.

For best growth and color development, feed MAZURI® koi diets in the variety appropriate for the size of the fish. Koi should be fed one or two meals daily that can be readily consumed in a short time. Be careful not to overfeed—and that no
feed remains in the water. If it does, reduce your koi’s next feeding by 10%.

Koi spawn in the spring—anytime from March through June depending on the return of warm weather. The eggs hatch in about a week, and baby fish are raised in natural-bottom ponds where they feed on organic matter for the first months of life.

By summer, fish are one to three inches long and will grow to six inches by their first year of life. They reach half of their mature length in their first 3-4 years, depending on variables including pond size, food and water conditions. Feeding should be increased in the summer so koi achieve maximum growth.

Reduce feedings in the winter to two or three times a week as the fish eat less in lower temperatures. When water temperatures dip below 43 degrees F eliminate feeding completely while fish are dormant.

Fully grown Koi range in size from 10-30 inches and can weigh up to 20 pounds. The age span of Koi average five years, but some have lived as long as 50 years—when fed a nutritionally balanced diet.

MAZURI® Koi Diet...specially formulated to provide all the nutrition needed for brilliant color and health—-at an economical price! Make it MAZURI® for life!