

02. Temperature

Told by: Empress Matilda, Dor 70

*"I have lived through three pump failures, two droughts, one flood, and a summer when somebody thought it would be helpful to put ice cubes in my lake. It was not helpful. Every change passes — but some changes pass considerably more slowly when they are the wrong temperature."
— Empress Matilda, from the Old Lake, speaking from considerable experience*

Every fish has a temperature range that suits them. Tropical fish — like the residents of the Greenhouse — need warm, stable water, usually between 24°C and 28°C. Cold-water fish like koi and goldfish prefer cooler conditions and would find that temperature most uncomfortable.

Temperature that is wrong weakens a fish gradually. Their immune system slows down. They stop eating well. They seem fine at first — and then, suddenly, they are not.

A sudden change in temperature is even more dangerous than the wrong temperature itself. Moving a fish quickly from cold water to warm water (or the other way) can cause temperature shock — which is exactly as unpleasant as it sounds.

⚠ Never move fish directly between tanks with very different temperatures. Float the bag first, add new water gradually, let them adjust slowly.

Yechiel's Rule: Know the temperature your fish needs before you buy it. Then keep it steady.