

# MAIN FACTORS FOR KOI GROWTH

By Seng Tran

There are three main factors to consider and maximize your koi growth:

1. Genetics Potential
2. Water Quality
3. Quality Koi Food

## **GENETIC POTENTIAL - *Genetics is important for koi growth potential. Look for good:***

1. Body Mass, Bone Structure
2. Body Proportion
3. Aggressive Eater

## **WATER QUALITY - *Good water quality is essential for koi health & growth. Need good:***

1. Filtration System
2. Waste Removal System
3. Biological Filtration System

## **Pond Water Turnover Rate - *Know your pond water turnover rate per hour.***

1. Ideally, 100% of pond water is turned over at least every 2 hours.
2. Pond water turnover rate of one or more times every hour could help koi growth.

## **Koi Fish Load Density – *Amount of koi compared to the size of your pond.***

1. Don't overpopulate your pond,
2. Overloaded pond can impact the water quality and growth – more competition for food.

## **Regular Water Changes – *Minimum 10% water change weekly.***

1. You can change up to 100% of your water weekly.
2. Test your water parameters before and after water changes.
3. Track the water quality and ensure it is in healthy ranges for your koi.

## **Plentiful Oxygen – *Koi Health Relies on Good Oxygenation***

1. Koi need plentiful oxygen, especially depending on your fish load.
2. Add bubblers in addition to a waterfall to maintain koi health.

## **QUALITY KOI FOOD – *Good or high-quality ingredients are critical to koi growth.***

1. High protein; good ingredients assist in koi health and growth.
2. During the koi growing season, feed your koi 5-10 times per day to maximize growth.
3. Each feeding should be a small quantity that can be eaten within 5 minutes or less.

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## **MOST KOI GROWTH HAPPENS IN FIRST (5) FIVE YEARS**

For maximum growth, ensure to follow these guidelines in the first 5 years of the koi's life. After 5 years, koi growth usually slows down and eventually stops. See the charts below for Good Growth Rates compared to Average Growth Rates of Koi in the first 5 years.

### KOI GROWTH CHART – GOOD GROWTH

	START SIZE (inches)	GROWTH (inches)	GROWTH %	END SIZE (inches)
Year 1	0.25	9.75	4000%	10
Year 2	10	10	100%	20
Year 3	20	6	30%	26
Year 4	26	4	15%	30
Year 5	30	2	7%	32

### KOI GROWTH CHART – AVERAGE GROWTH (50% LESS THAN GOOD GROWTH)

	START SIZE (inches)	GROWTH (inches)	GROWTH %	END SIZE (inches)
Year 1	0.25	9.75	4000%	10
Year 2	10	5	50%	15
Year 3	15	2.25	15%	17.25
Year 4	17.25	1.3	8%	18.5
Year 5	18.5	0.6	3%	19