

Herons & Kingfishers

Issue – the most common complaint is eating fish out of a pond.

Suggestions –

▶ Provide lots of places for fish to hide, e.g. mat-forming aquatic plants (like water lilies), cinder blocks, ceramic drain tile, wire baskets, or sections of PVC pipe sunk to the bottom of the pond. Herons usually land in an open area a short distance from the edge of the pond, then walk over to fish.

Some ways to make this more difficult -

- ▶ Create a fencing or vegetation perimeter barrier around the pond.
- ▶ Install two strands of visible wire or tape, 8 and 18 inches off the ground, around the edge of the pond.
- ▶ Make pond sides steep and have the water level 8 to 12 inches below the edge of the pond to make it difficult to reach for fish.
- ▶ Have the pond over 3 feet deep at all points, which will be too deep for a heron to fish.

Kingfishers sit on a perch or hover above the pond to see fish, so a net cover would prevent them fishing. However, the net should be stretched tight, as birds can easily become tangled in loose netting.

