



The Complete Algae Page!

NATURAL PREVENTION

The most effective way to achieve an algae controlled pond is by establishing what is called "ecological balance." which simply means planting the appropriate number of plants needed to use the waters nutrients to exclude the lower life form. Submerged aquatics like cabomba, hornwort and anachris are the primary factor in this scenario. You should have one bunch per square foot of pond surface. If your pond water is already green, it could take as much as 6 weeks to achieve a clear pond, however with today's bio-filters and UV clarifiers that time period can be substantially lowered in some cases by 80%. We will deal with those items later. If your pond is green you need to remove your submerged plants from the pond bottom and place them closer to the pond's surface where they will receive sunlight for growth. As the water clears they may be lowered again to the bottom.

REDUCING SUNLIGHT

The amount of light reaching the pond surface can be controlled with floating or surface plants. 60-70% of the ponds surface should eventually be covered with these plants. Water lilies, water lettuce and water hyacinth are good choices to accomplish this coverage quickly. Plant taller marginal plants to help shade the pond from the later afternoon sun. Place these so that they will shade the pond starting around 1 pm. This is a trial and error situation and you may have to rearrange them to effectively shade sections of your pond from the afternoon sunlight.

TESTING YOUR WATER

Changing pond water to eliminate is only temporary and basically kills all the good and beneficial bacteria you need for clear water. This is also very stressful on the plants and fish. **BUY A TEST KIT!**

BLANKET WEED ALGAE

Filamentous algae named string, hair or blanket-weed algae is common even in clear ponds. You should remove as much as you can by hand then use a product like Microbe-Lift Green Clean or Algae Fix to eliminate and prevent it from taking over your pond.

PLANT FERTILIZER

Use caution and follow the directions on liquid plant fertilizers as some actually feed the algae and affect your fish. One example of an approved plant food would be Highland Rim Aquatic Fertilizer. This product does not add nitrates or phosphates to your water.

Use Bonnie's Water Gardens Aquatic Soil for planting your aquatics, peat and humus rich soil will only add nitrates to the water that's what algae needs to grow.

FISH POPULATION

Keep the fish population within bounds; fish waste just adds nutrients to the water. Feed fish only what they will consume in about 5 minutes. Uneaten food contributes to the bio-load, which may cause green or tea colored water. In the summer months feed your fish smaller amounts once a day.



POND OXYGENATION

Install small recycling pumps hooked to water features, like spitters or fountains, in stagnant areas of the pond. A stagnant area of water invites algae growth. Install your normal re-circulating pump at the opposite side of the pond from where the return is, so that the entire pond turns over. Start with filtering your pond every 4 hours. Example: 1000 gallon pond would require a pump that was rated at 250-300 G.P.H to perform this rate of turnover. Because, algae feed on dissolved nutrients in the water, oxygenating does not ensure clear water. It does ensure a richer supply for the nitrifying (good bacteria) bacteria and fish. Nitrifying bacteria can be added directly to your pond and biofilter. These bacteria require circulating water and proper pH. Once again buy a test kit. The smooth algae growth on the sides of your pond and pots is considered a good sign that you have a healthy pond. This good algae has to feed on nutrients also, which helps to starve the bad algae that will green up your pond.

POND ADDITIVE

Before you use any additives, remove as much algae as you can by hand. Dying algae should always be removed so that it does not decompose creating food and restarting the cycle all over again. Bonnie's Water Gardens only uses additives that are nature friendly. Aqua One is a product that is a natural product to help the break down of bad algae. This is one of the main products we have, but of course we have many more products that all work to keep your pond clean.

Other good products Bonnie's Water Gardens carries:

Algae Fix

Microbe-Lift Green Clean

Microbe-Lift PL

Barley Extract or Pellets

Aqua Rem

FINAL WORD ON ALGAE

As you well know by reading this, you must do certain things to obtain a pond with clear water. We hear from people all the time wondering what they did to deserve such a pea soup pond. Chances are it is not what they did, it is what they didn't do. Plant coverage, number of fish, correct pump with the correct filter system...it all matters. Ask questions so that you can be assured you are getting information that you can use to determine what you really need.