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Evaluating Ponds and Algae

Tips for having clearer water

What are algae?

Algae are tiny plant-like organisms which are found just about everywhere on earth. Every pond has a unique ecosystem with lots of living organisms, including algae. The most common types of algae are filamentous, stringy mat-type algae (pond scum or pond moss) and planktonic, green water algae (pea soup). A healthy pond is one in which everything is in balance. If the conditions in your pond favor the growth of algae, you may notice green, cloudy water or floating algae.

What to do if your pond turns green!

Knowing why your pond water becomes cloudy and turns green will guide you to the best possible actions you can take to restore balance in your pond. Several actions may be necessary to achieve the desired results.

Nutrients

The main nutrients consumed by algae are phosphates, nitrates and ammonia. All pond water has some nutrients present; the objective is to keep it in balance. Sources of nutrients include: decaying vegetation (leaves, twigs, flowers, seeds), fertilizer, dead organisms (insects, fish, snails etc.), fish waste and excess fish food.

Sunlight and Water Temperature

Come summer, the days are much longer and sunlight can penetrate the pond water much further. With more heat and ultraviolet light in the water, algae problems can become more apparent.

Oxygen Content of the Pond Water

Some people think that the more oxygen in the water, the more it will retard algae growth. Many times, adding air can cause more algae to bloom. But if the water becomes stagnant, adding aeration or water movement will help increase the oxygen content of the water.

Shade the Pond Water if Possible – By shading the pond water, you can reduce the amount of ultraviolet light reaching the algae and keep the water temperature lower.

Create a Biological Filter Zone - A simple biological filter zone can be created by grouping special types of pebbles and rock-like minerals through which slow moving water is passed. BioWorld contains the proper digestive strains for the filters to work effectively.

Add More Water Plants if Desired - Water plants restrict the growth of algae by competing for the nutrients and blocking the sunlight. Place them in shallow "planting zones" around the edge of the pond. If you leave them in containers, you will be able to move them around easily. The bigger the pond, the more plants you will need.

Add Fish if Desired - A few fish can assist with algae balance, but too many fish will make the problem worse with excess waste and uneaten fish food. The size of your pond will determine how many fish may be appropriate.

Skim the Pond – If you notice excess organic debris on the pond surface, remove it with a net.



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Removing Water – As a last resort, remove 25% to 50% of the water every 7 to 14 days and replenish with clean, fresh water. Add BioWorld Algae Treatment after refilling. Since algae thrive at pH readings above 7.6, lowering the pH toward neutral will take time and patience through replacing the water. Avoid adding acid or pH buffers unless you have done your research.

Use BioWorld Algae Treatment in sufficient amounts – A pond has a fragile ecosystem that can change in a short amount of time with changes in daylight hours, temperature, pH and nutrients. Adding BioWorld Algae Treatment helps clear the water and balance the overall pond ecosystem.