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Pond Water Quality & Clarity Troubles

Green or cloudy water is a common occurrence in many backyard ponds. These issues are manifestations of excess nutrients in the pond. Dirt, mulch, and excess fish food will spur on algae growth. Algae, just like any other plant, needs light and nutrients to grow. If you can control either of those parameters you can usually get a green pond under control. It is important to understand different types of ponds and how filtration systems work in order to be successful. The following is a list of tips and additives that can be used to help control algae and organic issues in your pond.

* Read the other great pond handouts for a full understanding of controlling algae in your pond.

Nutrient Control:

- Keep your pond free of debris. Don't let the skimmer debris net overfill with leaves. Decaying debris in the skimmer will contribute to unwanted nutrients.
- If you can see large amounts of debris or sludge on the bottom of your pond you will want to remove as much of that as possible before beginning to use any type of water treatment. Performing a spring cleanout each season will prevent this from occurring. *See our handout on spring cleanouts for more information.
- Remember to never use lawn fertilizer or insecticides on trees around your pond or on areas of your property that will drain toward your pond. Lawn fertilizer and insecticides will cause large algae blooms, as well as severely threaten the aquatic life inside your pond.
- Limit Fish Feedings: No matter if you have goldfish or Koi, feed your pond only once per day, about as much as the fish can consume in 2 minutes. Make sure that food does not collect in the filter, you may need to shut the pumps down to prevent this from happening.
- Fix Leaks: Tap water can have an abundance of nutrients in it. Continually adding large quantities of tap water to compensate for a leak can actually promote algae growth. Fix leaks when they are discovered.



Ongoing Filter Maintenance:

No pond is self sustaining. All mechanical filter baskets, screens, and filters must be kept clean for any pond to function well. The frequency of maintenance is different for every type of filter and pond. If you find the filter completely clogged when it is serviced, more frequent service is recommended.



Beneficial Bacteria:

Aquascape Beneficial Bacteria contains 8 pure strains of concentrated beneficial bacteria, including PSB (Photo Synthetic Bacteria) and enzymes. PSB helps quickly clear pond water by clumping fine debris and allowing it to settle. This combination of natural cleaners helps to maintain a strong biological balance in your pond.



Sludge Cleaner:

Aquascape Sludge Cleaner contains 5 pure strains of concentrated heterotrophic beneficial bacteria. This combination of natural cleaners helps to maintain a strong biological balance in your pond while quickly cleaning between rocks, gravel and keeping filter pads from becoming quickly clogged. Aquascape Sludge Cleaner maintains a strong biological balance; providing clean, clear and healthy water conditions.

EcoBlast:

EcoBlast™ is a granular algacide and is the fastest way to eliminate unsightly debris from waterfalls, streams, and rocks. Sprinkle EcoBlast™ onto existing debris and watch it disappear. EcoBlast™ works best when the product is applied directly on existing debris.



S.A.B.:

String Algae Buster, or S.A.B, contains pure strains of concentrated beneficial bacteria and enzymes. Ideal for breaking down debris in ponds, streams and waterfalls, this combination of natural cleaners helps to maintain a strong biological balance in your pond. S.A.B. works by adjusting the micro-nutrients in the water of the pond, resulting in conditions that are unfavorable for unwanted string algae.

Algaefix:

Algaecides such as algae fix are very affective at killing algae in a pond. Once the algae is dead all of the debris will be trapped by a mechanical filter or fall to the bottom of the pond where it can be broken down by beneficial bacteria and enzymes.



Plants:

Since they directly compete with algae for nutrients and sunlight, they are probably the most important addition to your pond. Add a wide variety of plants to your pond. This not only creates a natural look, but also will help reduce the algae in different areas of your pond.

- Place water hyacinth and water lettuce in your BIOFALLS® filter. These floating plants reproduce rapidly, using up enormous amounts of nutrients. A stick placed across the front of the BIOFALLS® filter will prevent the plants from flowing over the front of the waterfalls and into the pond.



- Plenty of bog and marginal plants should be added to the pond. Plants such as cattails and iris take up large quantities of nutrients. They are hardy and will be back each spring to help you balance your pond.
- Cover the water surface of the pond by planting lilies. Lily pads float on the top of the pond, shading the water.

