



Grandora Aquatics

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TROUBLESHOOTING

Algae Problems

Both newly planted ponds, as well as established ponds, provide ideal conditions early in the season for the growth of suspended algae, causing green, murky water. This is a completely natural occurrence and is not harmful to plants or fish.

Contributing Factors:

1. **Sunlight** - inadequate plant growth to provide sufficient shade.
2. **Warm water** – resulting from inadequate plant cover and/or shallow water
3. **Dissolved nutrients** – present in the water, providing food upon which the algae thrives
4. **A large fish population** – fish waste is eventually broken down into nitrate fertilizer
5. **Excessive feeding of fish** – unconsumed fish food and excess fish waste

Recommendations.

1. **Be Patient** – allow the pond time to achieve a natural ecological balance between plant life, nutrients light and temperature. Once the plants start to grow, they will filter the sunlight, thus providing shade and lowering water temperature. In addition, these plants will consume excess nutrients in the water, thus depriving the algae of food.
2. **Do not change the water** – this merely provides a fresh supply of dissolved minerals for the algae to feed upon and thus prolongs the time for a natural clearing to take place. Further, sudden temperature changes place stress upon the plants and fish.
3. **Do not add algacides** – this will create artificially clear water, which may become green again as the chemicals lose their effectiveness. Most important, any chemical that will kill algae, a simple form of plant life, is likely to hinder the growth of more desirable aquatics such as lilies and marginal plants. Improper dosage can result in the loss of all plants and even fish. If coagulants are used to settle suspended algae, filtration is usually necessary to remove coagulated plant material before its decomposition can harm fish.



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4. **String algae** – is sometimes a problem in mature, balanced ponds with clear water. A small amount is beneficial in keeping water clear and providing natural food for the fish. Excessive amounts can be removed manually or by gently altering the pond chemistry to create conditions unfavorable to the growth of string algae. Barley straw and peat pellets are natural products recommended for that purpose.
5. **Be sure you have sufficient plants for a balanced pond** – oxygenating plants do a great deal to absorb dissolved nutrients. We recommend 1 bag for every 5 – 6 square feet of exposed surface area. Larger, deeper ponds require less. Add water hyacinths or another water lily to provide shade and use up nutrients. Hyacinths are inexpensive and usually multiply rapidly. Other floating plants such as salvinia and duckweed are also very helpful. A good supply of snails and/or a vacuum will help to remove slime and accumulated debris, thus helping to keep the water clear. If fish population is large, especially Koi, a filter may be needed. We firmly believe that an ecologically balanced pond will provide more profuse growth and bloom, thus giving the water gardener more pleasure and satisfaction for his efforts. “Plant for balance” be patient and prepare to sit back and enjoy a summer full of healthy, exotic flowers and lively fish.

Water Lilly Problems

1. The use of chemicals to control algae is not recommended.
2. Planting containers are too small
3. Lilies are not getting enough sunlight – depending on variety they need 6 hours minimum
4. When planting did not use heavy top soil and/or fertilizer as recommended.
5. Many commercially packaged soil mixtures are not suitable for water lilies
6. Soil or gravel on the crown of the plant
7. Needs fertilizer – did not fertilize monthly with 15-30-15 fertilizer
8. Root bound – hardy water lilies need dividing every two or three years
9. Too little or too much water over the crown
10. Hardy water lilies start to go dormant in September.
11. Tropical lilies do poorly in cold weather and go dormant after a heavy frost.
12. Use of herbicides or pesticides in your yard or your neighbor’s
13. Splashing or turbulence from nearby fountain or waterfall
14. Large koi or goldfish may be eating new growth and possibly disturbing the root system.
15. Excess of aphids, which may be sprayed off with hose and eaten by fish.