



**** SPECIAL EDITION OF TODAY'S POND Q&A ****

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Hi everybody,

We're experimenting with a new way to send share our very popular 'Pond Q&A' emails with you, in an effort to let more people receive them.

With all the problems with email these days, many people are not receiving our valuable pond information emails, so we're hoping this will help.

Be sure an let us know if you like the format...

These are now being published as an Adobe PDF, which is viewable on most computers and can be downloaded from Adobe.com.

****Also very important**** – if you wish to keep receiving our emails and information, be sure to 'add' us to your spam filters, and email blocking services. Check with your email provider on how to do this, but usually it's just a matter of adding us to your 'friends' list.

Here are the email addresses of ours you'll want to add:

newsletter@macarthurwatergardens.com
info@macarthurwatergardens.com
sales@macarthurwatergardens.com
brett@macarthurwatergardens.com

This way, you'll be sure to keep receiving our great newsletters, Q&A emails, and other related pond information that you'll definitely not want to miss.

Ok, on with today's Pond Q&A...

* Feel free to forward to friends and fellow pond owners as long as information below is included.

Pond Filtration 101

Question>

Hello, I ordered a liner, skimmer, filter Etc. package from pondsforless.com last spring. I have installed everything. I fight brown to green nasty water constantly. Last fall I drained and refilled my 7000 gallon pond twice. I ordered pond clear, something that turned the water black to keep the sun filtered, which was totally ugly, and had to drain it again.

I have 15 water lilies and had 20 large gold fish. I have fought disease with my fish and lost most of them. I have medicated over and over. Now spring is starting, my lilies are putting on small pads, I have mucked out the leaves and debris, and the water is getting browner and browner. What can I do to get semi clean water quality.

I have a large lava rock filter and skimmer filter. There must be something I can do to clean up the water. It looks like a lagoon instead of a water garden. Right in my front yard no less. I have spent over \$2000 putting this pond in, and am about to have it filled in if I can't get it somewhat clear.

Please help me with any suggestions possible.

Thank You,

Terry Plunk

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Answer>

Hi Terry,

Sorry to hear you are having trouble with your pond. It's very frustrating to have a pond that won't stay clear, especially if you are losing fish..

A pond's natural tendency is to gravitate towards 'swamp-like' conditions and without effective filtration, will turn into an ugly brown or green mess. In nature, the ecosystem is very different and conditions can be stable. However, in man made ponds we need the help of some type of filtration.

In smaller ponds, the water can be kept relatively clear with enough plants - both surface covering (like lillies) and submerged to absorb excess nutrients.

To keep your pond clear, several things need to happen...

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First, the water must be re-circulated roughly once or twice per hour, so you need a pump that will move a minimum of 3500 gallons per hour - preferably more. This will help to re-oxygenate the water (especially if you have a waterfall) and any toxic gasses from decaying matter in the pond, from building up in any one area.

The second (and most important) element of effective pond filtration when fish are present, is the biological breakdown of fish waste which comes out in the form of Ammonia. In nature, there are two types of beneficial bacteria which break down the toxic by products of fish waste. The first is called Nitro somas bacteria, which breaks down the Ammonia and turns it into Nitrite, which is also toxic to fish.

The other beneficial bacteria is called Nitrobacter, which breaks the Nitrite down into non-toxic Nitrate, which is then absorbed by plants, and naturally broken down by sunlight and other means.

To have all of these processes functioning effectively in a man-made pond, you need the help of a filter.

A good biological filter will do two things:

First, it will provide enough surface area for these naturally occurring and beneficial bacteria mentioned above to colonize and multiply to the point where these toxic chemicals (Ammonia and Nitrite) to be broken down very quickly, if not immediately after passing through the filter.

It's other important function is the mechanical removal of physical waste, debris, and other particulate matter that would otherwise cloud the water. The best filters allow for easy cleaning and waste disposal (ideally by backflushing) before this physical waste has a chance to break down and decay into other toxic gasses that put additional load on the ponds ecosystem.

Now that you have had this brief introduction to pond filtration, and the *secret* to having a clear and healthy pond, I'm going to recommend to you that you invest in a properly sized biological pond filtration system like the Aquabead.

Lava rock filters (which you have) clog quickly, and the lava rocks need to be replaced annually - which means losing your bio-filter once per year.

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For your size pond or anything over 2000 gallons, there is really only one effective solution and that is one of our biological bead filter systems, like the Aquabead.



[Aquabead Pond Filter System](#)

The Aquabead system includes an energy efficient re-circulating pump, a state of the art biological filter with air blower, and a high-intensity UV sterilizer.

You may be asking yourself "Do I really need all of these fancy and complicated sounding contraptions?"

And the answer is... Yes.

The UV sterilizer also very important, because it will effectively kill all the suspended algae in the water, which is what is causing your water to turn brown or green. Excess algae in the pond, or very green water, can be a health hazard to fish also because while during the day - the algae can produce oxygen in the water from photosynthesis - at night the reverse process takes place and the algae will absorb oxygen, and can drop the dissolved oxygen levels in a pond to dangerously low levels.

This happened once two years ago at the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. For over a year, I had been recommending to them that they install a new filter system and a UV sterilizer to clear up the very green water..

One day I was called out there because all the fish were gasping at the surface of the water, and many had died. After testing all the important water parameters (Ammonia, Nitrite, pH, etc..) which all checked out perfectly - I ran a dissolved oxygen test and determined that the fish had essentially suffocated overnight. They lost over \$100,000 worth of imported Japanese Koi in less than 24 hours. It was very sad to see, and could have been prevented.

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The (not so short) answer to your question is: *Invest in an Aquabead filter system.*

It will provide many years of crystal clear and healthy water for your fish. In fact, we guarantee it. With over 100 of our own very happy and satisfied customers using these, we're very confident it will work great for you.

Here is some more information you may find useful:

Aquabead Complete Systems

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/2.htm>

Includes:

Aquabead Filters:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/1.htm>

High intensity stainless steel UV Sterilizer:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/UV.htm>

Energy Efficient Pumps:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Fluidart/pump.htm>

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/WunderFlo.html>

http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Pumps/artesian_pumps.shtml

Aquasieve Pre-Filter

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/aquasieve.htm>

Bottom Drains:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/BD.htm>

** NEW Filters For Larger Ponds **

Medusa Pond Filter

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/Medusa.htm>

The Mashimizu Pond Filter *New*

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/Mashimizu.htm>

** Pictures & Videos **

My Pond:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/my-Aquabead.shtml>

Videos:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/Video1.htm>

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/AQ/Video2.htm>

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And We're Offering FREE Shipping for the next 7 Days Only!

For a limited time (until Midnight March 13th) we're extending our FREE SHIPPING offer on all Aquabead filter systems. Last year, we paid for the shipping on all of these systems...

But fuel and freight charges are skyrocketing... So, we'll have to remove this offer soon.

Last year, we shipped over 60 of these units to our clients and customers, with 0 complaints and 0 returns... So now is a great time to buy an Aquabead for your pond!

Click here for more information on the Aquabead:

http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/Aquabead_Filters.html

Click here to customize and price your system now:

http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Aquabead/aquabead_plus_systems.shtml

Question>

Hello,

Can you please advise me of which product I could use to add to my cement water fountain water to keep the algae growth down or eliminated but, is still be safe for my cat to drink water from?

Pleas advise.

Thank you.

Sheila Kern

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Answer>

Hi Sheila,

The product we normally recommend for algae control in ponds is called Algae Fix, made by Pond Care, which is safe for fish – but I don't know if it's safe for your cat to drink from the pond afterwards.

Although, I've seen my cat drink from my pond in the past, and she's still got most of her 9 lives left!

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You could still try it, and just keep the cat from drinking out of the pond for 3 days, and then most of the chemical has evaporated or been broken down by sunlight.

However, for green water algae – the very best solution is a UV sterilizer. These are great for keeping water clear and algae free!

For string algae, or algae on the sides and bottom of the pond, that's a different story.

You may want to refer to our previous articles on algae control, which are listed here:

Pond Articles Directory – Click Here:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Articles/pond-articles-directory.htm>

These articles might help also:

String Algae Blues:

http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Newsletters/Articles/StringAlgaeBlues_April2004.shtml

Lose That Ugly Algae:

<http://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Newsletters/August2004/Lose-that-ugly-algae.shtml>

How to Clean Your Pond:

<https://www.macarthurwatergardens.com/Newsletters/Articles/How-to-clean-your-pond.shtml>

Another thing you can try is an algae eating fish called a plecostomous fish (available in most fish or aquarium stores) or get some nice big Japanese snails for your pond.

The only reason I don't like snails is because the raccoons 'LOVE TO EAT THEM' and will be attracted to your pond for a snack.

And guess what? Raccoons like to eat fish also... So be careful with going that route.

Hope this helps, and good luck with that algae!

Website News!

Some of you may noticed some thing new with our website...

Namely – all the new products!

We've added over 100 new products to the website for you to choose from. We've also added some new drop down menus from the homepage that will let you easily search by product name or by manufacturer.. Take a look when you have a chance.

Now the bad news...

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All these new pages have slowed down our web server, and so we're in the process of moving to a much faster and more reliable website platform.

In fact, we've invested almost \$5,000 in a new dedicated server which hope will make it much easier and faster for you (especially our customers using dial-up internet connections).

During our transition, several features of the website may not function properly, including our search box feature. So, please be patient while we work to fix these and get everything working again.

That's all for this special weekend issue of our Pond Q&A.

Feel free to email your comments and feedback about the new format to us at info@macarthurwatergardens.com

Happy Pondkeeping!

Brett Fogle
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1-800-695-4913

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