

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 17 issue 1

May 2025

HOTWGPS Events



Great news! Webbs not only donated money to help with pond tour expense but they gave us a unique code to use when purchasing from their online pond supply store on most items. Use code HEART 10 when checking out. The discount will be applied to items that do not have a little flower on the “add to cart” button.

The 2025 Pond Tour is coming up next month June 7th & 8th. We hope everyone will be able to attend the May meeting on May 20 at 6:30 PM at Rose & Ron Haft’s home. More info later. For those of us who are showing our ponds, attendance is highly encouraged as Ron will be sharing more specific information and passing out the Pond Tour signs.



Pond Vac

As a reminder, this is a “Members Only” benefit. You can rent (\$5.00 for up to 72 hours) this super-duper pond cleaning machine very reasonably! John Enders is the “official Pond Vac keeper”. Call him 254-848-9596 or send him an email at jnenders@aol.com to schedule your time with the machine. One note of caution when using the pond Vac, watch how much water you are removing from your pond!! It works so well sucking up the “yuk” that one can easily forget how much water is also being

removed! That is the voice of experience talking!!



This from President John

Plant Swap Season is Here!

Get ready for our upcoming plant swap! It’s the perfect time to share the bounty of your pond—just trim back a portion of your expanding plants and pop them into small pots or leave them rooted in water. Swapping is easy, fun, and a great way to save money while helping fellow members grow their water gardens. We can do plant swaps as often as you’d like—so bring your extras to our next meeting and take home something new!

The following from the Pond Guy

Editor note: The article has many of their products shown. Webbs Water Gardens has similar products that are just as effective and probably a little cheaper with our discount.

Pond Algae Control: Remove & Prevent Blooms

By The Pond Guy

There’s nothing worse than watching your pond turn green or seeing buildup on your waterfall rocks. If you want to learn how to get rid of algae in your pond, there are several products, both chemical and chemical-free, that can help. In this guide, we’ll cover the best pond algae control tips to help keep your

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pond clean and clear. Most importantly, we'll cover how to get rid of algae in your pond without killing fish.

Chemical Algae Treatments

If you have an existing algae problem and want to kill algae in your pond quickly, chemical treatments are the way to go. Selecting the best koi pond algaecide will depend on the types of pond algae you need to treat. For fine planktonic algae that causes green water, Algae D-Solv or other liquid chemicals are a great option. If you're fighting filamentous (string) algae, then a granular form such as AlgaeOff is more effective since it makes better contact with the algae. Importantly, both products also support pond algae removal without killing fish.

Chemical-Free Algae Treatments

Keep in mind that while chemicals will help with controlling algae in a pond and offer a quick fix, they won't prevent regrowth. Once algae is treated, using proactive products is the key to reducing future growth. If you're continually battling algae or want to know how to get rid of algae in your pond naturally, without the use of chemicals, there are several ongoing treatment options:

UV Clarifiers:

Installing a pond UV clarifier is an effective way to eliminate discolored water. They are great for water gardens in full sun to combat excessive sunlight. UV clarifiers are designed to destroy the ultrafine particles that cause discolored water. Once killed, the dead

particles clump together and are removed by your mechanical filter. When selecting a UV clarifier, take your pond and pump size into account. If your pump is too large, the particles won't be exposed to the UV radiation long enough to damage the cell walls. Another thing to keep in mind is that pond UV light bulbs should be replaced yearly – even if they still light up – since they become less effective at controlling discolored water over time.

Ionizers:

Copper ionizers for ponds are designed to release copper ions into the water to keep it clear and reduce string algae buildup. To release the ions from the anode, ionizers require pumps to have a minimum flow rate. Ionizers can easily be incorporated into new or existing water gardens by installing them in-line with plumbing or placing a drop-in model into your pond skimmer.

How to Prevent Algae Blooms in Ponds

Above treating algae, the best long-term solution is learning how to keep algae out of your pond. There are several factors that can lead to algae growth, and growth isn't always, preventable, but there are a few proactive steps you can take.

Ensure Effective Aeration:

If you're actively treating algae in your pond, it's important to ensure your pond has good aeration to maintain healthy oxygen levels and water circulation as dead algae decays. This is especially true in warmer months.

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Consider adding a pond bubbler to help with this.

Maintain a Filtration System:

Mechanical filtration helps to remove the excess nutrients from the water column. As the water passes through the pond filter, debris is removed and collected in the filter box or skimmer. Filters are rated based on the pond size, but for water gardens with high fish loads, a larger filter may be needed.

Add Barley:

Barley is the perfect solution for maintaining a clean and clear pond naturally and is safe to use in ponds with fish and other wildlife. Barley can be used during the winter months when other pond treatments are ineffective. Barley products are available in several forms, which all help keep your pond clean and clear for up to six months.

Barley straw for ponds

Barley straw extract

Barley straw pellets

Add Beneficial Bacteria:

Excess nutrients mixed with sunlight are usually the cause of algae blooms in ponds. Nature's Defense and Muck Defense contain beneficial bacteria, which consume the nutrients and other organic material in your pond and convert it into a harmless gas. These products are included in The Pond Guy Defense PAC along with other products that

will keep your pond crystal clear for up to six months.

Limit Debris Buildup:

Leaves, fish waste, and other organic material accumulate in a pond. Cleaning your pond in the spring is a great step toward preventing algae blooms in ponds. Throughout the season, use a pond vacuum to help keep it tidy. In the fall, we don't recommend giving your water garden a deep clean unless it really needs it.

Add Aquatic Plants:

Sunlight is essential for algae to grow. You can block that sunlight by covering your water with pond water lilies or other floating plants; we recommend shading 40-60% of your pond's surface area. Among the several benefits of adding aquatic plants is that, like beneficial bacteria, they absorb excess nutrients in your pond, further limiting the ability of algae to grow.

Remove Some Fish:

Fish are a great addition to any pond, but overcrowding can easily happen as your fish grow through the years and reproduce. This can create tight living conditions, and your filter system may not be large enough to handle the waste being produced. A simple rule of thumb is to allow 1-2 koi or 2-3 goldfish per 200 gallons of water.

Improve Food Habits & Quality:

Overfeeding your fish can also lead to increased algae blooms, driven by excess

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waste and uneaten food introducing more nutrients to the water. We recommend feeding your fish only once a day and about as much as they can eat in a few minutes. You should also feed them balanced food like The Pond Guy Growth & Vibrance Fish Food that has plenty of protein, vitamins, and minerals to support their health and limit waste creation.



On the lighter side

Ole was taking Lena, who was pregnant with twins, to the hospital when his car went out of control and crashed.

Upon regaining consciousness, he saw his brother Sven, sitting at his bedside. He asked Sven how Lena was and his brother replied, "Don't worry, everybody is fine and you have a son and a daughter. But the hospital was in a real hurry to get the birth certificate filed and both you and Lena were unconscious so I named them for you." Ole was thinking to himself, "Oh no, what has he done now?" and said, "Well, what did you name them?" Sven replied, "I named the little girl Denise. Ole said, "Ya, that's a very pretty name! And what did you come up with for my son?" Sven smiled and replied, "Denephew."



Sven got a new truck. He called his pal Ole and said, "Ole, I got a new truck! Do you want to go ice fishing with me?" "Sure!" says Ole. So Ole went with Sven and Lena came along.

Well, Sven and Lena sat in the front seat and Ole sat back in the bed of the truck. They were on the ice when all of a sudden the truck went right through the ice! Now even though Sven and Lena are pretty big people, they managed to get out of the truck and up to the surface, and back on top of the ice. Sven says, "Ole, what took you so long!" "Well," says Ole, "It took me a while to figure out how to open the tailgate."



Sven and Ole were carpenters on a new house. Sven, who was nailing down siding, would reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over his shoulder or nail it in.

Ole, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, "Why are you throwing those nails away?" Sven explained, "If I pull a nail out of my pouch and it's pointed TOWARD me, I throw it away 'cause it's defective. If it's pointed toward the HOUSE, then I nail it in!" Ole got completely upset and yelled, "You MORON!!! Those nails pointed toward you aren't defective! Dare for the OTHER side of the house!!!"



Please support these businesses who have agreed to give our members a discount at their businesses.



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