



## Secrets of Clear Water

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Tired of green cloudy water looking like pea soup? Would you like to relax by the cool clear shimmering water and be able to see the fish swimming by? Are you sick and tired of using chemicals all the time?

Believe it or not it is very easy to naturally have clean-clear water. All you need is patience. Did you know that it takes about 2 years for a pond to become eco-logically stable? If you have that kind of patience and are willing to let the pond do its own thing, you will have a clean-clear pond in about 2 years.

First, we need to distinguish between the **two types of algae**:

1) Cloudy, single-celled algae, we call pea soup or new pond syndrome. This alga is undesirable but is the easiest to get rid of.

2) Moss-like algae that spread like string throughout the sides of the pond are actually desirable, and scavengers, such as snails and fish feed on it to control excess growth.

To control the pea soup, we need to use these ingredients: patience, plants, scavengers and a filter system (optional). Most likely, the reason you have this problem is your pond is new or was just cleaned (drained). **DO NOT DRAIN THE POND**. It takes ten days to two weeks for these single-celled algae to start to grow and cause the pond to look cloudy. The pond must age naturally to allow microorganisms to multiply and plant populations to establish themselves. An algaecide can be used during this period, but remember, an algaecide only acts on existing algae, and treatment will not keep the pond clear indefinitely. It is a temporary control and will not change conditions in the pond causing algae. **Algaecides can hurt water plants, so read the directions.**

Plants are nature's filters, and are the secret to clearing up a pond and keeping it clean. Plants shade the pond and starve the algae by absorbing the nutrients (mineral salts and nitrogen) and carbon dioxide essential for algae to grow. Grasses (Cattails) are especially effective in controlling algae. Water lilies are useful because their pads shade out a good bit of sunlight. Oxygenators don't just oxygenate, but remove mass amounts of nitrogen from the water.

Scavengers (tadpoles and snails), in addition to grazing on algae, eat leftover fish food. This is important because fish will not eat leftover food. Feed fish only what they will eat in 5-10 minutes. Leftover fish food will rot and foul the water.

Selection of natural materials, mentioned above, can lead to a clear pond in time. A filter system is a great time-saver in clearing a pond and keeping it clean instantly. Filters remove the pea-soup algae, fish waste, and any particulate matter that cloud the pond with the help of clarifiers (**AQUA-REM by TETRA or MICROBE-LIFT**).