

Got Green?

Steps to Maintaining Algae-Free Ponds

By Mark Koepsell, Healthy Ponds from Bioverse.



Here's the scenario; initially in the spring an inspection of your ponds finds them crystal clear and looking good. But just around the corner a beast is growing and that beast is algae. It starts out around the edges of the pond and as the season continues and the weather warms the beast just continues to grow. Algae is caused by a nutrient overload present in your pond. Grass clipping, leaf debris, animal and fish waste fill into your pond and become decaying organic matter. The algae feeds on this matter and reproduces to a noticeable green scum that takes away from the natural beauty of the pond. Now what do you do?

The solution to this problem is to reduce the nutrient level in your pond.



photo credit Andy Keyes, Assistant Superintendent at The Meadows at Mystic Lake

An effective way to accomplish this is to treat your pond with Healthy Ponds AquaSpherePro, or a similar product, containing beneficial bacteria and enzymes that break down the organic waste and reduces the excess nutrients in the water.

The following is an example of a typical treatment plan for a typical pond:

1. Determine the type of algae that is present.

Filamentous Algae – appears to be green clumps collecting around the water's edge. When pulled from the water it appears and feels hair-like.

Planktonic Algae – appears like pea soup in the water.

2. Determine the correct amount of water in the pond to be treated. While

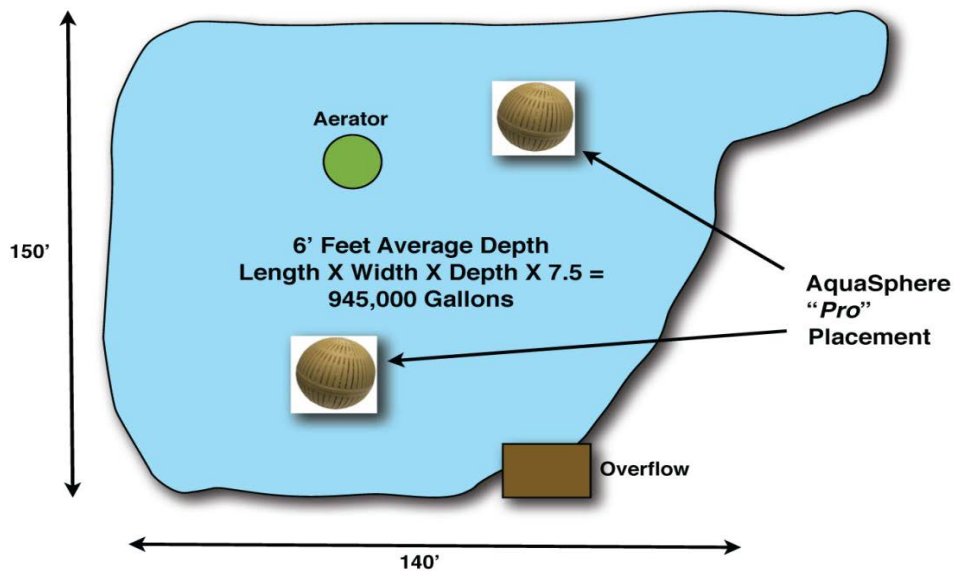
over treating a pond will have no adverse effect, under-estimating, and thus under-treating, will not achieve the desired results. To determine the correct amount of water use the following formula: Length x Width x Average Depth x 7.5

3. Treat with appropriate size and number of spheres. It is important to apply the proper amount of beneficial micro-organisms. For that reason Healthy Ponds has a variety of sized AquaSpherePro products to treat your pond.

Typical Lake Treatment

150' x 140' Lake Treatment

Total Gallons: **945,000 Gallons**
Treat for: **1,000,000 Gallons**
First Treatment: Vista 4 packs (each water soluble packs treat 250,000 gallons)
First Treatment: Aquaspheres 2
Treatment Additional Months: 2 AquaSpheres per month.
Typical Treatment for North Texas is February through October.



Typical Pond Treatment Plan

Factors Affecting Performance:

- Ponds using aeration systems will see an even greater impact when using an all natural product with beneficial bacteria and enzymes.
- Large ponds can be quite irregular in shape. You will get better results if the beneficial bacteria and enzymes are distributed throughout the pond.

- Ponds subject to periodic loading of nutrient rich runoff through turf fertilization, frequent rainstorms may require additional treatment requiring a stronger dose of bacteria.
- Very shallow ponds may require additional treatments.
- Irrigation ponds require additional treatment to compensate for the turnover of water.

Ponds are like people, they are all different. Not every pond responds to the same treatment program. It is important to keep as much debris out of the pond as possible and to monitor the pond on an ongoing basis. Each pond has its own issues that need to be addressed to determine the most effective treatment plan.

“Got Duckweed?” Look for my next article later this season on Aquatic Weed control.



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