



two kinds of fish and by eradicating all others.

Such artificially shortened food webs boost production of the intended kinds of fish. This is usually what the pond owner wants, rather than an "interesting" natural community of fish that doesn't provide as much angling. But we should realize that the simplified community may be less able to bounce back from occasional catastrophes such as disease, cold snaps, and drought. Substantial and repeated management is often needed to keep an un-

natural pond community the way the owner wants it. There is a saying in pond management that "once you start managing, you have to keep managing like mad."

Another bothersome kind of imbalance and instability in the pond's community of living things happens when there is an insufficient number of predator fishes (bass). Then small fish (bluegills, other sunfishes, minnows) may become so abundant that the water flea population is cropped down to numbers that can't consume much of the algae that are pro-

duced. This leads to an overabundance of algae, which is not only unsightly and foul smelling but also reduces dissolved oxygen in the pond depths.

Consequences of Overenrichment

A pond's suitability for fish can deteriorate severely if its supply of nutrient phosphorus becomes great, as when topsoil, leaves, fertilizers, or human and livestock wastes flow