

# Justin's Clear Water Recipe



**Frustrated with your pond? Do you always have algae? Can you see your fish?**

The good news is we have algaecides that can be used to get rid of the problem growth. The bad news is it will come right back unless you fix the “real” problem(s). If you have that much algae that you need to maintain the pond with an algaecide, there is a bigger problem that you are not addressing. The primary causes of excessive algae growth would be high nitrates and phosphates, too much sun or too shallow a pond with little circulation, too many fish, over feeding, too little filtration, and I could go on. But you need to take a look at the real problem if you are to ever have any lasting relief in your pond. I reserve chemical use as an “intervention”, for emergencies rather than for maintenance. And if the emergency does arise, we have several products that will aid in algae control and is safe for fish and plants.

**Here are my year-round recommendations to consider while doing maintenance on your pond:**

1. **Cut back on feeding your fish.** If you are feeding your fish everyday, try cutting it back 50%. This will eliminate excess waste and uneaten food, thus, starving out algae of needed nutrient!
2. **Do a 20-30% water change.** Get some of that old, nutrient rich water out, and replenish with new, fresh water. While doing the water change, clean any physical algae off rocks and remove as much organic load (leave, needles, and debris) as possible.
3. **Add aeration to the bottom of your pond.** Adding an aerator or fountain pump will drastically help move some of that stagnant water from the bottom 2/3 of your pond. In a lot of cases, ponds will have plenty of oxygenation with a waterfall, however, only the top third of the water moves across the pond into your skimmer or other mechanical filter.
4. **Be consistent with your beneficial bacteria & an algaecide.** Filtration is a major part of having a well balanced pond. If you are having problems keeping your pond clear, it's probably because your filter isn't fully established or hasn't “turned over. Adding liquid bacteria is recommended, smaller dosages, more frequently! Also, an algaecide like Green Clean will help kill that unwanted string algae. And, just because you don't have any algae in your pond doesn't mean you shouldn't be adding an algaecide as a preventative. *Use your algaecide 1<sup>st</sup>, and then within the following 1-2 days add your beneficial bacteria!*
5. **Update your filter media.** Times have changed, so have ponds. Get that old, heavy lava rock out of your filter and replace it with a much more efficient Biosphere or ribbon filter media. It's lighter and won't get clogged with dirt! We also recommend updating your filter mats with the Matala filter mats, which are a “plastic-rubber” based mat, easier to clean and has a much longer life expectancy than the “old white” mats!

