

Tips For Controlling Pond Algae

No matter if it is a decorative pond, water garden, golf course pond or stock tank, nothing drives pond owners crazier than an infestation of pond scum or pond algae.

The only thing that equals the frustration of seeing it, is trying to control it.

The ability to identify the type of algae in a pond and then to limit the nutrients available to it goes a long way in preventing pond algae growth.

There are three basic types of pond algae:

Planktonic algae are microscopic, free floating algae that give ponds their clear green color.

A normal population of planktonic algae is mandatory for a healthy pond, as they are the base of the food chain and are responsible for supplying the pond with dissolved oxygen, essential for the health of the other aquatic life.

When planktonic algae start to bloom, they will give ponds a pea soup coloration. This usually takes place in summer months.

Filamentous algae, often called pond scum or pond moss, begins growing on the bottom of ponds on surface like rocks and logs and resemble

green fur.

As the clumps grow, they break loose from the bottom and float to the top, causing ugly green mats on the pond surface.

Filamentous algae begins growing in the early spring and is first noticed around the edges of the pond in shallow water. It has no redeemable value to a pond.

Attached-erect algae commonly are mistaken for a higher vascular plant due to its dense, gritty appearance and its resemblance to aquatic plants with left-like structures.

Attached-erect algae are less common, but due to its thickness, blooms can be dangerous to swimmers along with being a nuisance to other water activities.

Attached-erect algae provide no significant value to a pond system.

Algae blooms in ponds are stimulated by the availability of excess nutrients in the pond and sunlight penetration.

Excess nutrients usually come from fish feces, decaying vegetation, fish food and fertilization run-off.

Shallow, clear ponds are often the most likely environments for algae to occur, due to the ability of sunlight to

penetrate through to the bottom soil.

The options available for algae control are wide. Herbicides/algae-cides like copper sulfate are common solutions used, due to its ability to kill the algae quickly.

However, a quick kill off of algae will actually work against the health of the pond.

Large algae kills will result in a decrease in available oxygen for other aquatic life and the increase in nutrients stemming from the dead algae, which leads to new cycles of algae.

An effective, long term method to control pond algae is the use of a live microbial product, that utilizes special beneficial bacteria to break the growth cycle of pond algae.

The microbes, once introduced into the pond, consume the excess nutrients, limiting the amount available for the algae.

They also break down the decaying vegetation and other organic matter that algae gets nutrients from, while at the same time releasing oxygen back into the pond.

The products are also all-natural and completely safe for fish, animals and turf plants.

This introduction of increased oxygen levels creates two positive effects.

Increased levels of oxygen in the water will cause decomposition of organic matter to occur faster, thus limiting the amount of nutrients available.

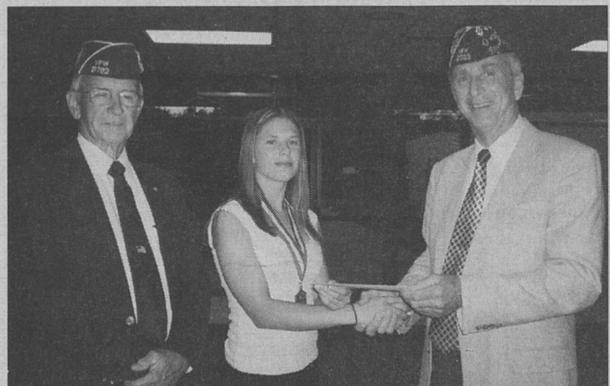
Increased amounts of oxygen also squeeze out other gases like carbon dioxide, which aquatic plants like algae need to survive.

The fight to control pond algae is a formidable challenge, but with knowledge and the help from a live microbial product, a clean, healthy and beautiful pond can be achieved.



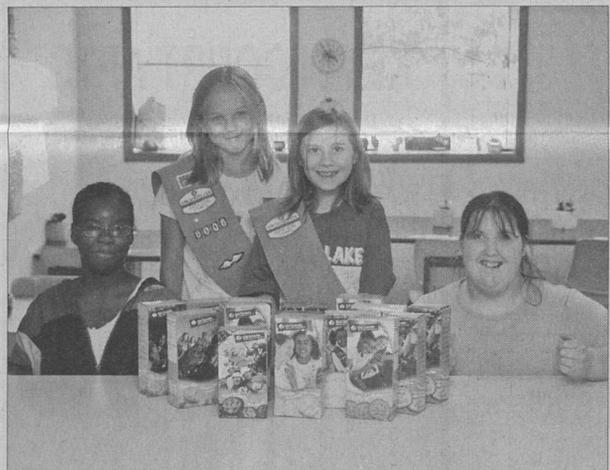
Farmer's Mutual Presents Scholarships

R.V.O.S. gave seven scholarships to members and sons and daughters Thursday May 18 at Rice High School. Pictured left to right are Len Matula, RVOS Lodge #23, Nada; President, Curtis Williams, Jr., Dane Krenke, Sean Korenek, Katie Hoffman, Audrey Drlik, and Layton Gold. Not pictured is Kayla Wishert.



Ray Receives VFW Scholarship

Chelsea Ray, daughter of Cliff and Ramona Ray of Eagle Lake, was the recipient of this year's V.F.W. Scholarship. Pictured left to right are David Haas V.F.W. member, Chelsea Ray, and Len Matula, VFW Commander.



Girl Scouts Donate Cookies

The Eagle Lake Junior Girl Scout Troop #6006 donated 44 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to the Colorado County Opportunity Center. This was part of the Gift of Caring Program that Girl Scouts offers during "cookie time". Thanks to donations from the community, the girls were able to share these great treats with everyone there. This also qualifies as a service project for our Jr. Girl Scout Troop. Pictured are Shalandra Moore, Taylor Semora, Ashley Crain and Angela Duet. Way to go girls!

Hoffman Graduates From Texas State University

Kinsey Lynn Hoffman graduated from Texas State University - San Marcos with a Bachelor of Arts International Studies with a major in International Studies.

Commencement was held at 2:30 p.m. May 13 at the Strahan Coliseum in San Marcos.

Kinsey was a 2002 graduate of Rice Consolidated High School.

She is the daughter of Theirry and Lisa Hoffman of Nada, granddaughter of Kenneth and JoAnn Mahalite of Eagle Lake, Meth and Mary Hoffman of Nada, and great-granddaughter of Ethel Konvicka and Hattie Mahalite of Eagle Lake.

While a student at Texas State she made the Dean's List and completed her internship at the International Affairs Department of San Antonio.

Attending the graduation in San Marcos were Kinsey's parents; brother, Kevin Hoffman; JoAnn and Kenneth Mahalite, Mary, Meth, Sherry, Darby, and Jenna Hoffman, Lana and Kelsey Grammer, Jaime Stein, Scott Friedrichs and Alyson Lanier.

A celebration dinner was held in her honor after the commencement



Kinsey Lynn Hoffman

at Logan's Run in San Marcos.

Kinsey will be relocating to the Austin area to pursue a career in International Business.

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