

1153

Pond Management

Whether you are involved with aquaculture, creating a wildlife habitat, watering livestock, or just want a picturesque pond for fishing or recreation, creating an environment that fosters aquatic plants is important for pond management.

Aquatic Plants can:

- Filter contaminants
- Mitigate excessive nitrogen levels
- Attract and create habitat for wildlife
- Oxygenate the water
- Create breeding grounds and food sources for fish

While their functions may differ, aquatic plants all have the same basic needs: Sunlight, warm temperatures, and phosphorous. By controlling these elements, you can create a pond environment that will meet your specific needs and host a broad variety of plants along the shoreline and in deeper sections of your pond.

If you have a new pond, are rehabilitating an existing pond, or just working to improve the habitat for fish, you can incorporate Monty's Liquid Plant Food to help manage your plant population.

According to Dennis Stephens, president of Monty's Plant Food Company, "Just like land-based plants, aquatic plants rely on photosynthesis to turn the sunlight into energy needed for growth. Using Monty's can be a safe method for providing nutrients without harming the environment." CCA Joe Dedman added, "With Monty's you are able to provide plants the nutrition they need without risk of harming wildlife, livestock, or creating an unsafe situation for people using the pond for fishing or recreation."

Dedman pointed out that, for many pond owners who are trying to raise fish, one of the key elements is providing plants that can be used as a food source as well as a protective breeding ground. Monty's can help new ponds, or help re-established ponds, promote vegetative growth without harming the environment. "For years, I sold the product at retail. Customers always commented on how much better their ponds were doing and how much bigger their fish were getting because they had more plants to feed on," Dedman said.

"Managing nutrient levels in your pond with Monty's is very simple. Pour 2.5 gallons of Monty's per acre foot of water directly into the pond. We have two formulas that are best suited for aquatic application: 8-16-8 and 2-15-15. Stephens added, "The 8-16-8 will work for most situations but if your pond does not have much shading or if you struggle with high nitrogen levels, then you might consider using the 2-15-15 which is higher in phosphorous and lower in nitrogen." In all cases, since Monty's is a non-selective fertilizer, you will need to keep an eye on algae population, especially when using the 8-16-8 formula, to keep levels in check as algae control methods may be warranted.

A pond can be a great source of enjoyment and provide great habitat for a broad variety of wildlife if it is managed properly. With a few simple steps, including the use of Monty's Liquid Plant Food, pond management is a little easier.

Boosting Vegetative Growth in Ponds

1. Plant buffer strips along the shoreline to minimize run-off from fertility practices.
2. Establish "No-Application Zones" for chemicals and fertilizers around the perimeter of your pond.
3. Monitor nitrogen levels as nitrification can "kill" your pond.
4. Use floating plants, shoreline plants and overhanging trees to control temperature and sunlight exposure.
5. Plant native species and use selective control methods like thinning, bottom barriers, and floating plants to keep populations at ideal levels.



For more information call (800) 978-6342