

Pond management answers to common questions and some resources for more information

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- Excessive plant and algae growth is due to nutrient loading in the water. Correct this imbalance makes the rest easy.
- Oily sheens on ponds are typically the result the decomposition process of plants.
- There are hundreds of kinds of algae, and they can be various colors from bright green to brown and red.
- Watermeal and some planktonic algae can also create an oil slick look to the water surface.
- Green/cloudy pond issues can be the result of a couple of things.
 - Spring/fall turnover
 - Excess nutrients
 - Excess sediment
- Add plants to your pond so the fish have food and habitat. The plants will also take up nutrients slowing the growth of algae.
- Remove or control aquatic invasive species.
- Control excess submerged plant growth organically with a pond dye or shade cloth
- Pond dye is most useful for algae control. It works by reducing the sunlight entering the water. It is considered safe for fish and animals and comes in a variety of colors.
- Floating shade can control other plant growth, use herbicides with caution following all label directions.
- Planting a buffer strip around your pond including shrubs and trees will reduce erosion and sedimentation run off, reducing nutrient loading in the water.
- Reduce or stop fertilizing lawn near pond 10-25 ft buffer.
- If you have a fountain or aerator: raise your aerator up about 18" to 2 feet from bottom of pond to help reduce plugged intake openings. Cinder blocks or something similar will work fine.
- Mechanical things, filters, pumps, fountains, and aerators require regular maintenance. They will plug up and fail if not maintained and kept clear of algae and other materials that may accumulate near the intake.

Here are some websites for more information:

This talks about rain gardens but has a great native plant list for wetlands in it

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-nps-landscape4wq_401217_7.pdf

A great place for resources for landscaping in and near the water including a list of professional landscapers certified in working with lakeshore landscaping (and ponds) and has a list of plants.

<http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/>

Get plants from one of these nurseries or any other that may not be in this association but provides wetland plants.

<http://www.mnppa.org/members.html>

Penn State - Ponds

<https://extension.psu.edu/pond-ecology-and-the-role-of-aquatic-plants>

For a general list of offerings from Penn State Extension about ponds

<https://extension.psu.edu/catalogsearch/result/?q=pond+management>

Rutgers - Pond and Lake Management Part I: Dealing with Aquatic Plants and Algal Blooms

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=FS1076>

Wisconsin – Managing Wisconsin’s Fishponds

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/G3693.pdf>

Clemson- Films and Sheens

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/water/stormwater-ponds/problem-solving/muddy-turbid-water.html/index.html>

Cornell – Cattail management

<http://cortland.cce.cornell.edu/agriculture/rural-land-use/ponds/controlling-cattails>

Ohio State University

https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/sites/woodlands/files/imce/0011_0.pdf

Purdue – duckweed and watermeal

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/APM/APM-2-W.pdf>

Pond Mgmt. Articles

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/how-much-water-is-in-my-pond>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/using_aquatic_dyes_in_ponds

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/preserve_your_natural_backyard_pond

(resource links at the end of this article)

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/smart-gardening-for-shorelands-keep-it-clean-to-protect-frogs-and-toads>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/be-a-smart-gardener-and-protect-lakes-streams-and-wetlands>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/be_careful_what_you_wish_for_when_managing_aquatic_weeds

an older q&A but still good

https://freshwater-aquaculture.extension.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pond_Management_and_In-depth_Response_to_FAQs_from_Pond_Owners_and_Managers.pdf

Managing Michigan's Wildlife: A Landowners Guide

To aid you in making sound conservation plans for your property check out this resource. You will find sections one, two and four most helpful as you invest in caring for your property.

https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/landowners_guide/Resource_Dir/Acrobat/index.htm

Pond Management Handbooks

Ohio DNR Pond Management Handbook

<https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/wildlife/fish-management/Pond%20Management%20Pub432.pdf>

Managing Michigan Ponds for Sports Fishing

https://archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/Ag_Ext.2007-Chelsie/PDF/e1554-1994-print3.pdf (this is a scanned older version as a pdf). The updated book can also be purchased online for \$5 at: Managing Michigan Ponds for Sports Fishing (msu.edu). <https://shop.msu.edu/products/bulletin-e1554>

Water testing labs (This not an endorsement for companies listed. It just a general search on the web.)

<https://aatestlabs.com/water-testing-laboratory.php>

<https://www.greatlakeswaterlab.net/>

<https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/water-quality-testing-lake-and-pond-water-testing-simplified/>

<https://www.rmbel.com/>

<https://nlslab.com/>