

The benefits of algae!



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

1. Algae in pond water makes a great natural and healthy food for fish. Often times, algae is a better form of nutrition than some products sold in stores!
2. One of the biggest benefits of algae is that it produces oxygen in the water. Algae in ponds is natural way to keep sufficient oxygen levels for the aquatic life.
3. Did you know that certain types of algae promote the presence of good bacteria? The algae serves as a home for the bacteria, which in turn provides a healthy pond.

City of Franklin—Engineering Department

109 3rd Avenue South Franklin, TN 37064

Algae Control in Stormwater Detention Ponds

Does your detention pond frequently look cloudy green, or have groups of bright green “scum” floating on the surface?

Read this brochure to educate yourself and others on how to properly maintain your detention pond and prevent excessive algae blooms!



CITY OF FRANKLIN
STORMWATER



What is algae? Is it bad?

A common misconception is that the presence of algae represents an unhealthy detention pond. This isn't true! When you see green murky water, that is nature's way of responding to a load of nutrients that have washed into the pond. This produces an increase in the plankton algae population, which in response provides oxygen and food for other aquatic animals. Their growth and reproduction is directly proportional to the amount of nutrients in the water, therefore many stormwater ponds have an abundance of algae as a result of the runoff from residential and commercial development.

However, there is such a thing as too much algae. A severe algae bloom can cause a fish kill because the death and decay of the algae will remove oxygen from the water. Everything in moderation!

Is there any "bad" algae?

Absolutely! One group of algae, known as blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) can produce toxins that can affect the health of fish and animals that come in contact with the water. Usually this type of algae occurs when a pond receives an excessive amount of phosphorus or animal waste.

Cyanobacteria?

You can identify this type of algae because they are normally a very bright green and usually forms a film on the surface. Most other algae is a darker shade of green and does not produce a film.



To prevent these blooms, you need to reduce the nutrient load that is washing into the pond and utilize other plants or compounds to absorb these nutrients from the water. Chemical herbicides can be used to treat algae blooms, but unless nutrient levels are controlled, this is only a temporary solution.

Who can apply aquatic herbicides to my pond?

Only pesticide applicators licensed in a Category 5 (Aquatic Herbicides) should apply labeled herbicides to stormwater ponds.



Prevention and Control

- Sweep or blow fertilizer off the roads to prevent from washing down the storm drain.
- Decrease or eliminate use of fertilizers on the banks of slopes and landscaping.
- Properly dispose of grass clippings and yard waste.
- Pick up your pet waste!
- Plant wetland plants along the shoreline to filter runoff and absorb nutrients.
- Place floating wetlands in the pond to extract nutrients directly from the water.
- Consider circulation systems, like fountains, that increase oxygen conditions in the pond.
- Aquatic dyes are only recommended in ponds that are part of a lentic ecosystem, meaning still waters. Dye should not be added when pond is outflowing into other receiving bodies of water.

Questions? Contact us!

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