

From the Headwaters of Aquatic Biologists, Inc.

Are Your Fish Happy?

One of the best features to owning a pond is the ability to catch fish right outside your door. Natural and man-made ponds support a variety of fish species in all different sizes. Some ponds and lakes are capable of supporting a quality fishery without any additional support. Most ponds, however, need to be properly set-up before a quality fishery can be achieved.

Fish basically need three things for survival – food, ample cover, and sufficient dissolved oxygen. Many ponds have significant amounts of food in the form of larvae, invertebrates, and insects. Fish can only grow so big on this mixture. It is easy to add cover and oxygen, food is normally the limiting factor. To produce larger and heavier fish, a pond should support plenty of forage fish. If you feel your pond is lacking a quality forage base, plan on stocking fat-head minnows on a regular basis until your forage base is sustained. 100-200 lbs. of minnows can be stocked in a one acre pond. Artificial feeding of a pellet fish food can also produce larger fish.

What kind of home does your fish have to live in? This may sound silly, but most pond owners do not give their fish a quality environment to live in. A home for a fish can be sunken log bundles, pallets stacked together, rock piles, tires, etc. Creating fish cribs can be fun and extremely healthy for your fish. We recommend 6-8 crib sites/acre of water. Be creative when building cribs. Think of where the best areas in a lake or pond are to fish – STRUCTURE! If you don't want to build cribs, there are pre-formed cribs available. Call us for more details.

Why Do We Use Dye In Ponds?

Many times when you are driving around our diverse state you will notice ponds along your route. Some of them are private ponds, some are in front of industrial parks or housing developments. Have you noticed that some of them are very blue? Well, many of those ponds have dye in them to make them that way. Aside from making the ponds more attractive, there is a management objective when ponds are dyed. Dye, specifically blue dye, acts as an aquatic plant growth inhibitor. All plants require light in order

to grow and prosper. Specifically, plants require much of the light to be in the blue wavelength. When you are looking at a lake or pond and you see the color blue, it means that you are seeing that wavelength of light reflected back from the water. If the light is reflected back, it is not as available to the plants beneath the water. Although most aquatic dyes are not herbicides or algicides, they will beautify your pond and may inhibit the growth of aquatic plants where light is a factor. One feature of black pond dye, when added to ponds with

high turbidity (suspended clay particles) there seems to be a clarifying effect. This may be due to the ability of the dye to reduce the electric charge on the clay particles that hold them in suspension, or it may just be that it looks better.

Pond dye should be added in the spring when the risk of overflow has been reduced. If your pond does not have overflow in the spring, the dye should be added at ice out. It's good to have the dye working for you as soon as possible.



Are you providing enough oxygen to support the size and quality fishery you expect? Do you have frequent winter and/summer kills? If you are aerating, are you doing it properly and adequately? Artificial aeration is continuing to be more accepted in small ponds and large reservoirs. ABI has been aerating lakes and ponds for over 25 years. We have seen substantial benefits to the fishery after we have installed an adequate sized aeration system. There are many systems and varieties available, including wind, solar, and electric.

Are you disappointed with the quality of your fishery? Are you unsure if your pond or lake is supporting a quality fishery? We can help. ABI provides consulting, fishery surveys, nuisance species eradication, initial and re-stocking of forage and game fish, crib building and installation, and aeration system design, sales, and installation. Healthy ponds create happy fish!

NOW'S THE TIME TO PREVENT ALGAE GROWTH

- Aeration—turn your water over often
- Phosphate Cleanser—ties up phosphorus
- Enzymes—breaks down nutrients
- Bacteria—competes for and feeds on nutrients
- Dye—blocks sunlight

Contact your local ABI biologist — NOW

Remember it costs less to prevent algae growth than it does to treat it later!

AERATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Have you or Aquatic Biologists, Inc. done the following:

- Compressor inspection, filters, cleaning
- Cabinet air filter change (where applicable)
- Fan lubrication and cleaning (where applicable)
- Inspect, clean, and acid wash diffusers to bring them back to optimum performance

CALL TODAY

Aquatic
Biologists, inc.
(Since 1977)

*Specialists in Lake and Pond
Management, Services,
Supplies and Consulting*

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**We can make your
compressor as good as new!**

Phosphate Cleanser It's Amazing

Ten and twenty years ago we were primarily selling algaecides and dyes to manage and control nuisance algae. Today with our Phosphate Cleanser product we are taking away algae's primary fuel or nutrient (phosphorus). This prevents or dramatically reduces chemical treatments. If your pond or lake requires three or more algae treatments per season this may be a great product for you.

We would encourage you to test your phosphorus levels, and consider an alternate approach to help manage this nuisance. Phosphate Cleanser removes phosphorus from the water and also seals phosphorus in the bottom sediment. If you are aerating, the results will be better yet. Every year Phosphate Cleanser becomes an even more important tool in controlling algae. An added benefit over time is that you will see an improvement in water clarity.

WEEDROLLER FOR PONDS

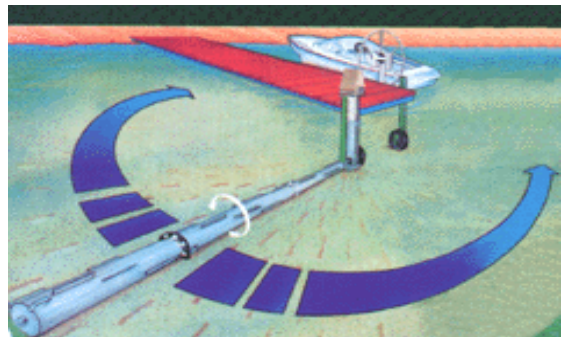
What is a "WeedRoller? A company in North Dakota is manufacturing a device that rolls down weeds, the result—a hard bottom in areas where the roller is used.

How does it work? The WeedRoller moves in a slow, broad arc, pivoting slowly as much as 270 degrees. Plants are uprooted and wound around the roller where they break down and disintegrate. The constant motion causes organic materials to decompose usually creating a hard bottom. The WeedRoller is easily attached to a dock or for areas without a dock there is a stand that can be provided.

The standard unit is made to operate in up to 4 1/2 feet of water and extends 21 feet out from the power head. The standard unit includes the power head, universal dock hardware, power converter, a six foot main power cord, and a 70-foot power cord from the converter (28 volt DC) to the power head.

Includes 21 feet of 6" diameter aluminum roller.

Our Wisconsin DNR requires a permit for lake shore properties before the WeedRoller is installed.



WeedRoller is virtually maintenance free, requiring only a few operating hours a week.

GOOD NEWS

Jim Nicholson our N.E. Wisconsin Biologist, is back from Iraq and ready to help you with your lake and pond needs.