

Viresco Aqua & Koi

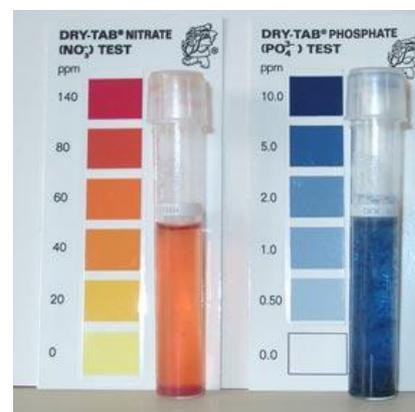


Bowl of blanketweed

Blanket weed is the bane of many koi keepers lives. If you have got it you will understand the frustration and constant work it causes, - if you haven't then you are very lucky. For the past few years I have always used chemical treatments to control the dreaded weed. Concerned about the constant use of chemicals, I was looking at alternatives.

At the South Hants show I purchased a pack of Viresco Aqua and trialed it in one of my small ponds. Viresco Aqua is a blend of natural microorganisms that digest both Nitrate and Phosphate the primary food source for blanket weed. The instructions recommend that the UV be turned off during treatment. Within two weeks growth slowed and I was left with a very manageable small growth of weed on the sides.

After this encouraging result I decided to put it to a proper test in my main pond. To validate any effects I performed tests daily for both nitrate and phosphate. I was somewhat concerned that my initial nitrate level of 80ppm was very high, and my phosphate level of 10ppm was "off the scale"



Test results before

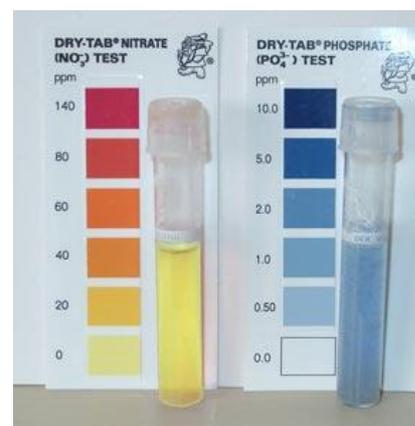
After 10 days the nitrate level was zero, and growth had slowed from approximately 2 feet per day to virtually nothing. The phosphate took longer to reduce, but slowly began to decrease. Unfortunately my holiday coincided with the test, and on my return home I immediately went out to check the pond. The weed was brown, most was dead and had stopped growing.

At the time of writing it is now some 6 weeks since I first added it to my pond. The dreaded weed has stopped growing. I have a coating of weed about 1" long on the pond wall, which the fish enjoy browsing, but absolutely no weed on the pond bottom. John McLaughlin recommends adding a maintenance dose at approximately 1/3 of the original dose.

The absence of weed has some further benefits, less waste gets caught in the weed, so water clarity improves, and the time spent removing the weed can be spent enjoying your fish as it should be. Reduction in high nitrate levels can make your fish less lethargic and keener to feed.

Viresco is available in two types: Viresco Koi, which contains solely the bacteria that consume nitrate and phosphate and Viresco Aqua, which also contains bacteria to degrade fish waste. Both these products are 100% organic.

This product has solved the weed problem for me and I shall continue to use it on an ongoing basis. If trying for the first time I suggest that you test your water for nitrate and phosphate regularly to check the reduction in levels.



Test results after