



ALGAE CONTROL PRODUCTS

VIRESCO™ AQUA

Microbial Viresco™ Aqua is now widely used in ponds to suppress blanket weed in particular and also green algae bloom. It will also digest organic detritus found on the sides and bottoms of ponds. Viresco™ Aqua contains two groups of micro-organisms. One of these groups is designed to effect rapid water clarification. This is done by efficient microbial reduction of the soluble nutrients in the water, in particular nitrate. Green algae blooms and filamentaceous algae - blanket weed - are thus rapidly suppressed.

The other group of micro-organisms in the product gives an efficient biodigestion of all the organic detritus in place on the walls and bottoms of ponds. This biodegradation also rapidly reduces the source organic material that is in part providing soluble nutrient in an aquatic system. It is this imbalance of nutrients that causes a pond system to develop heavy algal growth.

As well as the micro-organisms it contains, Viresco™ Aqua also contains other materials that stimulate the activity of aerobic, anaerobic and facultative bacteria at very high levels over a long time.



The initial suggested usage rate for Viresco™ Aqua is 10g per 27m³ of water volume (approx. 6000 gallons). Viresco™ Aqua should be put into solution using, say, 2 to 4 litres of pondwater per 10g and allowed to stand for a few hours. Use an egg whisk or an air-stone to put air into the solution. Alternatively, one or two of our oxygen releasing tablets, Peroxyaqua C, can be put into the container. Ideally it should be mixed in the morning and then applied to the pond during the evening. The prepared solution should be bulked up with more pondwater and poured into the pond in different places whilst walking around the pond.

Viresco™ Aqua is completely harmless to plants, fish and other pond life and will, in fact, improve the health of fish. It was initially formulated for use on fish farms to improve the health, disease resistance and growth of fish.

It is important to have enough oxygen in the water when Viresco™ Aqua is used as it contains aerobic micro-organisms. If it is used in a pond without sufficient oxygen, its effectiveness will be reduced. At worst, it will also deprive fish of the oxygen they need. If there is any doubt about the levels of oxygen, then start with a reduced application of Viresco™ Aqua and watch the fish carefully. Then

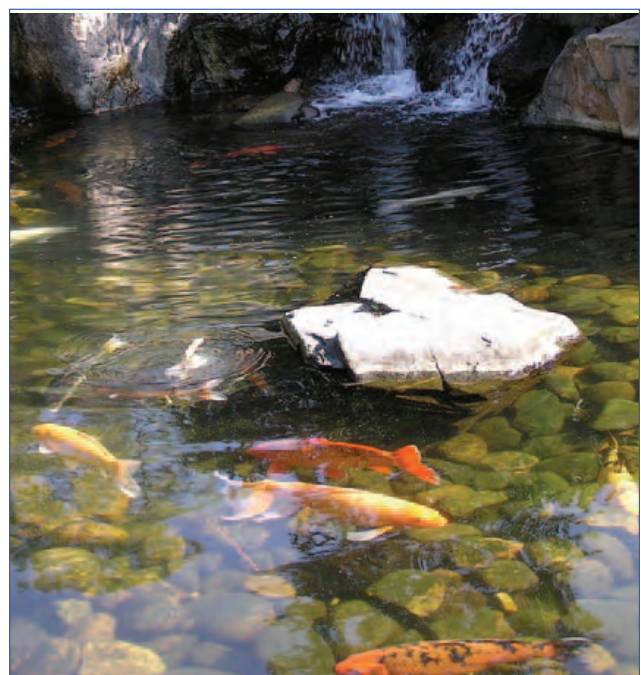
continue to add the product until the entire quantity has been applied.

We have had great success selling Viresco™ Aqua to koi and other pond keepers for whom the growth of blanketweed can be like an epidemic. Viresco™ Aqua was introduced in autumn 1997 and, from the earliest users, we quickly received very good feed-back.

Whilst some pondkeepers obtain a response from Viresco™ Aqua within 7 to 10 days, some need more than one application to achieve success. A few people have had to use more than two treatments before the blanket weed disappeared. (See section on page 7 on "Fish Stocking Levels".)

Similarly, for some people, the length of time one application will work for has been well over 12 months. For others it is only a few weeks. No two ponds are alike and we suggest that 10g per 6000 gallons is a sensible rate of use to start with. However, it is very likely that, for some people with high levels of nutrients in their ponds, further applications are needed. Nitrate tends to be the main nutrient that encourages the growth of blanket weed but other nutrients are also relevant, eg phosphate.

Code	Product	Pack Size	Price
VAQG/005	Viresco™ Aqua	5g	£13.75
VAQG/010	Viresco™ Aqua	10g	£23.75
VAQG/025	Viresco™ Aqua	25g	£49.75



VIRESCO™ KOI

Because many koi keepers ensure they have little organic waste in their ponds by the use of bottom drains, vacuums and skimmers, the microbial waste digester portion of Viresco™ Aqua is somewhat superfluous. Therefore, in April 2000 we introduced Viresco™ Koi which contains more of the micro-organism mix that reduces the nutrients on which blanketweed feeds and fewer of the waste digesting microbes. Overdosing with these microbial materials causes no problem so, using the same quantities for the same volume of water as for Viresco™ Aqua, we are thus recommending, in effect, a higher dose of the nitrate removing microbes when Viresco™ Koi is used.

Early in 2001, we sold a pack of Viresco™ Koi to a koi keeper. Exactly 7 days later, she rang to say our product was "absolutely marvellous". She is a keen exhibitor of koi and told us she had been trying for years to reduce the level of nitrate in the water in her pond to zero. Whilst there was only a relatively small amount of blanketweed present in the pond, her prime aim was to address the nitrate problem. She had never been able to take it much lower than 20ppm. She wanted nitrate at zero because she knew her fish would be "happier". With the nitrate at zero, she realised any blanketweed would starve to death. When she rang, she said in the 7 days, the pond nitrate had dropped from about 30ppm to zero.

We met her again at a show about 3 weeks after the phone call. She stated that the nitrate reading was still zero and her fish "were different creatures". They were very lively and would eat virtually anything. She added that one of her koi had been suffering from body damage and had "a hole in its side". She had been bringing in the local veterinary expert on a weekly basis to treat it, but the sore would not heal. However, within a short time of applying Viresco™ to the pond, the flesh had healed completely.

Her husband, on deciding to buy another pack of Viresco™ at the show, said he would have been happy to pay double the amount for the results he had seen. He also said that, for the first time since they had set up the pond, he was able to see both the colour of the brushes in the filter and to the bottom of the chamber in which the brushes were positioned. Our product had removed the green slimy algae that was always present in that part of the filter unit.

Code	Product	Pack Size	Price
VKOG/005	Viresco™ Koi	5g	£13.75
VKOG/010	Viresco™ Koi	10g	£23.75
VKOG/025	Viresco™ Koi	25g	£49.75

VIRESCO™ FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND SWIMMING PONDS

As is well known, chlorine is used in swimming pools to disinfect the water and to keep algae bloom at bay. However, there is increasing evidence that chlorine is toxic to people who use pools. Julia Stephenson, of "The Independent", in a website article of 17th March 2007 that was published in the newspaper in 2005, summarises the problems that are linked to chlorine in swimming pools. She states:

"Chlorine by-products in swimming pools are linked to higher incidences of asthma, skin disease, lung damage, still births, miscarriages and bladder cancer, according to research conducted in the US, Canada, Norway, Australia and Belgium".

Our Viresco™ Aqua is used in one swimming pool at a holiday complex in The Gambia. The owners purposely did not want to use chlorine and turned to our product to keep down levels of ammonia and nitrate so that algae did not grow. A photograph of the pool is shown.



It is not surprising that people are turning away from conventional swimming pools. This is reflected in an increase in a relatively new past-time that is swimming in so-called swimming ponds - essentially garden ponds without fish. The deeper, swimming part of the pond is surrounded by a shallower shelving section, on which are placed pond plants. The pond plants are there to remove nitrate that comes in with tap water used to fill or top up the pond as well as the nitrate that arises from ammonia released from human or other wildlife visitors. There is evidence to suggest that this type of vegetable filter rarely works 100% in removing nitrate and algae growth is the unsightly result. As a consequence, we now have a number of swimming pond owners who back-up their vegetable filters with our Viresco™ Aqua.

MICROBIAL PRODUCTS



VIRESCO™ FOR AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

We believe that our nitrate removing Viresco™ products will control free floating pond weeds such as duckweed. These types of plants rely on nitrate in the water as a nutrient supply. Because Viresco™ takes the nitrate to zero, their nitrate supply disappears. Therefore this type of plant should die.



Other floating pond weeds, eg azolla, are able to make nutrient from nitrogen of the air. This is called nitrogen-fixing. We do not believe that our Viresco™ product will control such plants. However, Viresco™ may well reduce the rate of growth of these plants.

There are other aquatic weeds that are rooted in the detritus in the bottoms of ponds. They will take their nitrate requirement in part from this detritus material in which they are anchored. They will also take some of their nitrate from that which is in solution in the water. Consequently we might expect their vigour to be reduced when Viresco™ is used. This would be analogous to what happens with purchased pond plants. They do not die but do not grow as profusely. It is found that flowering plants such as water lilies flower better as they are not spending all their energies putting out green stems and leaves.

It is our intention to conduct some trials to investigate scientifically the effect of Viresco™ on pond weeds.

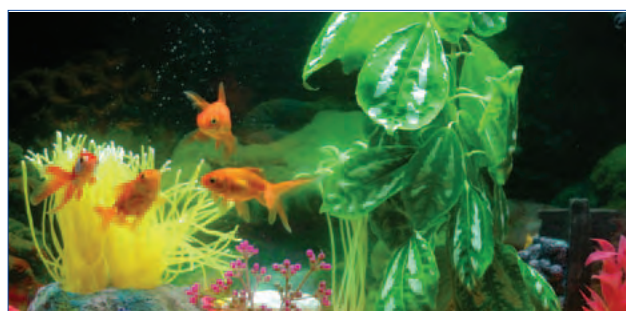
VIRESCO™ AQUARIUM

Viresco™ Aquarium was launched early in 2003. It is packed in small snap-on capsules. Each capsule will treat 10 to 15 gallons of aquarium water. Maintenance doses are required but the timing will vary. Viresco™ Aquarium removes nitrate from aquarium water and reduces phosphate. Consequently algae bloom disappears and fish are healthier. Organic waste is also digested.

Various tests with Viresco™ Aquarium were conducted during 2002. One such test was carried out by Simon Wolstencroft, the editor of "Tropical Fish". He successfully trialled it over a number of weeks and the results of the trial and his comments were published in the February 2003 issue of the magazine. At the beginning of the article he says: *"We don't run a competition for the best new product of the year, but, if we did, this (Viresco™ Aquarium nitrate remover) would be a strong contender"*

He continued: *"Within ten days of adding the product, this level (nitrate) was halved. Within a month the levels were unmeasurable, even on a good quality test kit and have remained so. Furthermore, in almost three months of continuous use, the front glass of the aquarium has not needed to be cleaned of algae, and there has been a considerable reduction in sludge."*

He concludes the article by stating: *"Our Verdict: We can't quite figure out how this product works, but work it does. An absolute essential for freshwater fishkeepers"*



We have one major aquarium manufacturer who, in just under 4 years, has ordered almost 2.5 million capsules and tablets. Depending on the size of the associated aquarium, one, two or three of the capsules/tablets are placed in a filter sponge. They are then sold as nitrate removing sponges.

Code	Product	Pack Size	Price
VAMU/010	V. Aquarium	10 capsules	£10.25
VAMU/025	V. Aquarium	25 capsules	£20.25
VAMU/050	V. Aquarium	50 capsules	£32.25