



TROUBLESHOOTING STRING ALGAE IN YOUR WATER FEATURE:

It's Going To Happen - What Can You Do?

CONTACT US DIRECTLY IF YOU NEED YOUR LANDSCAPE DESIGNED & BUILT

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

PRICE YOUR PROJECT

REQUEST A CALLBACK



YOUR BEAUTIFUL WATER FEATURE IS MEANT TO BE A SOURCE OF TRANQUILITY AND VISUAL APPEAL THAT IS MEANT TO WORK WITH NATURE...AND THAT CAN MEAN A BIT OF STRING ALGAE. WHEREAS A LITTLE BIT OF STRING ALGAE IS COMPLETELY NORMAL AND SHOWS SIGNS OF GOOD WATER HEALTH - A BUNCH OF STRING ALGAE CAN BE UNSIGHTLY AND INDICATE SOMETHING IS HAPPENING WITH YOUR WATER QUALITY. HERE'S HOW TO IDENTIFY, PREVENT, AND ELIMINATE STRING ALGAE PROBLEMS.

UNDERSTANDING STRING ALGAE: THE CULPRIT BEHIND GREEN WATER FEATURES

String algae (also known as filamentous algae) appears as long, hair-like green strands that can quickly take over your pond, waterfall, or fountainscape. Unlike beneficial algae that's part of a healthy ecosystem, string algae can create unsightly clumps that can clog pumps and disrupt water flow.

COMMON CAUSES: WHAT'S FEEDING YOUR ALGAE PROBLEM

Nutrient Overload - The Primary Culprit

String algae thrives on excess nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus. Here are the most common sources:

Lawn Care Contamination:

- Grass clippings blown or washed into your water feature
- Lawn fertilizers that are oversprayed or accidentally cast into the feature
- Runoff from recently fertilized lawns during rain or irrigation

Plant-Related Issues:

- Fertilizer from the soil of new plants when plants are placed in or near the water feature
- Soil straight from the nursery that contains time-release fertilizers that runs off into the water feature
- Using potting soils with built-in fertilizers when replanting aquatic plants
- Planting new Aquatic plants directly in the feature using the same soil that they came from the nursery in
- Decomposing organic matter from overhanging trees and shrubs

Maintenance Oversights:

- Failing to add beneficial bacteria regularly
- Over feeding fish
- Infrequent cleaning of skimmers, debris baskets, or intake bays
- Not performing annual clean outs
- Not removing plant debris from the feature



EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS: YOUR ACTION PLAN

Immediate Removal Techniques:

Manual Removal:

- Hand-pick or use a long-handled tool to physically remove string algae
- Work systematically, removing as much as possible
- Dispose of removed algae away from the water feature to prevent recontamination

UV Treatment Method:

- Turn off your pondless waterfall or fountainscape for 2-3 days
- Allow UV light from the sun to naturally kill exposed string algae
- This method works best during sunny weather conditions

Vinegar Treatment:

- Mix equal parts white vinegar and water (1:1 ratio)
- Turn off the pump to stop water circulation
- Apply the mixture with a spray bottle directly to exposed string algae
- Allow to sit for 3-5 hours before rinsing and restarting the system
- Note: Use sparingly and ensure proper dilution to avoid harming fish or plants

System Maintenance Solutions:

Clean Your Filtration System:

- Remove debris from skimmers and intake bays
- Clean or replace filter media as needed
- Ensure your dosing system has not run empty

Add Beneficial Products:

- Apply Aquascape Pond and Debris Clarifier as a mild algaecide
- Regularly dose with beneficial bacteria or add treatment to dosing system to maintain biological balance
- Consider adding barley straw extract as a natural algae preventative

Long-Term Prevention Strategies:

Nutrient Management:

- Create barriers between lawn areas and water features
- Use phosphate-free fertilizers in surrounding landscape areas
- Rinse new plants thoroughly before adding to water features
- Choose aquatic plant soils specifically designed for water gardens

Regular Maintenance Schedule:

- Weekly debris removal during growing season
- Weekly beneficial bacteria treatments (if not on a dosing system)
- Seasonal deep cleaning of feature
- Annual professional inspection and tune-up



WHEN TO CALL PROFESSIONALS

While these DIY solutions are effective for minor algae issues, persistent problems may indicate deeper system imbalances. As Regina's only Certified Aquascape Contractor, Peregrine Landscape Construction can diagnose and resolve complex water feature issues.

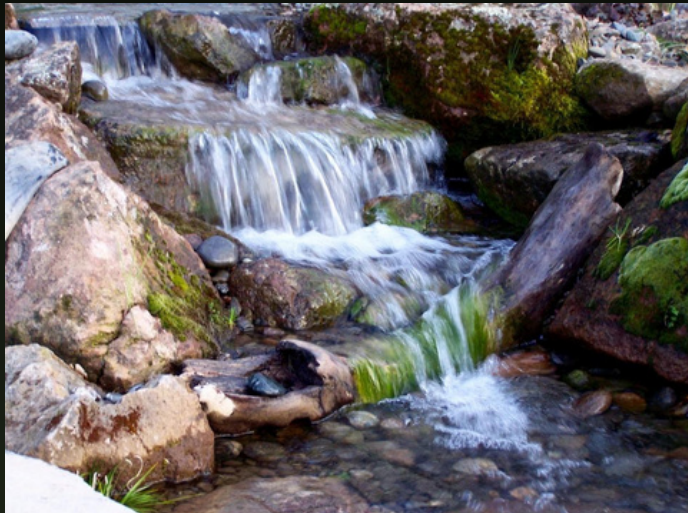
Contact us if you experience:

- Recurring algae problems despite following these steps
- Pump or filtration system malfunctions
- The need for system upgrades or modifications

PREVENTION IS KEY

Remember, a well-designed water feature with proper filtration, circulation, and biological balance should naturally resist string algae growth. The key is maintaining that ecosystem balance that makes your water feature a true outdoor oasis.

NORMAL AMOUNTS OF ALGAE



EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF ALGAE

