

## OVAS Chat Room Event - Planted Tanks!

Moderator: PaleoFishGirl

Panel of Experts: Jetstream, BigDaddy, Toss

[] 8:06 pm : If you have a question or comment, type an exclamation point (!) and send it to the room.

[] 8:06 pm

: I will call on people in turn. "GA" means "Go Ahead" ...so, when it's your turn to "speak", will type "GA yourname".

[] 8:06 pm : While you are waiting to be called upon to speak, start writing your question!

[] 8:06 pm

: When called upon to speak, if you wish to address one of our 'experts' directly, use their name in the beginning of your question.

[] 8:06 pm : When you're done speaking, type GA to let me know you're done and that we can continue with the chat.

[] 8:07 pm : To ask a question, simply type it in the box at the bottom of the screen and press 'Send.'

[] 8:07 pm

: If you'd like to have a non-related conversation with another member in the room, click their name and choose 'Private Message.' Please limit all conversations in the main window to Planted Tank material.

[] 8:07 pm

: To ensure that we have another Chat Event in the future, please use respect. Those with moderator rights (the M in their emoticon) are permitted to kick you out/ban you from the room for inappropriate behaviour.

[] 8:07 pm

: So, with that, I'd like to welcome BigDaddy and Jetstream to the room and thank them for agreeing to be our Planted Tank Experts tonight! Let's get started! Hopefully Toss joins us as well, but for now, let's begin!

[] 8:08 pm : Don't everyone pipe up at once :D

[] 8:08 pm : !

[] 8:08 pm : Maybe you guys want to start by telling us about your setups? BD?

[] 8:08 pm : okay first GA RoxyDog

[] 8:08 pm : !

[] 8:09 pm : Zapisto is next in line

[] 8:09 pm : just testing, to show I guess. :grin: GA again :)

[] 8:09 pm : GA Zapisto

[] 8:09 pm : when you are talking of planted tank are you talking any tank with plant or tank with aquascape ?

[] 8:09 pm : GA

[] 8:10 pm

: I think we can address just about any planted tank... although jetstream is probably a better aquascaper than I am

[] 8:10 pm : !

[] 8:10 pm : Mine is consider as Dutch style

[] 8:10 pm : GA Jetstream - you and BD are on the panel so speak whenever you want :D

[] 8:11 pm : not belongs to aquascaper at all

[] 8:11 pm : !

[] 8:11 pm : cause I don't have any rock or wood pieces in my tanks

[] 8:11 pm : GA Zapisto

[] 8:11 pm : ok can you talk quicly about different style ?

[] 8:11 pm : GA

[] 8:11 pm : Basically I guess there are 2 basic stule

[] 8:12 pm : stule

[] 8:12 pm : Dutch style and so call Amano natural style

[] 8:13 pm : !

[] 8:13 pm : GA Zapisto

[] 8:13 pm : what is the difference between the 2 ? GA

[] 8:13 pm : both normally have very min of fishes in the tank

[] 8:14 pm : Amano uses fewer species of plants

[] 8:14 pm : ya with rock and wood

[] 8:14 pm : whereas a dutch tank will be planted with a large and varied group of species

[] 8:14 pm : Amano style tanks don't HAVE to have few fish...

[] 8:14 pm : but most don't

[] 8:15 pm : Dutch style aquariums, by their deifnition, have few fish and lots of plants

[] 8:15 pm

: I heard that in the open competition, the judge will deduce points if you have more than 3 types of plants in 12 sq inches

[] 8:15 pm : for the Dutch style tank I mean

[] 8:16 pm : ! Have you entered any competitions Jetstream?

[] 8:16 pm: very tempting

[] 8:16 pm: Plus, Amano style tanks have a specific look , for example a clear glass aquarium with no trim around it and an open top....

[] 8:16 pm : !

[] 8:16 pm : GA Zap

[] 8:16 pm : but I got too many kinds of plants in my tanks

[] 8:16 pm : wich style is best to start ? mean for a newbie in plant like me example ? GA

[] 8:17 pm: I think a "newbie"

[] 8:17 pm: any style depends on your own

[] 8:17 pm: should just get comfortable with their setup

[] 8:17 pm: or low light to med light planted tank

[] 8:17 pm: easy and more room for we errors

[] 8:17 pm: understand how their plants, lights and ferts all interact

[] 8:18 pm: I agree with BD

[] 8:18 pm: !

[] 8:18 pm : The simplest "style"

[] 8:18 pm : GA Zap

[] 8:18 pm : ok , i read many time that acidic water is better for plant and

[] 8:18 pm : ya

[] 8:18 pm : you have the advantage

[] 8:19 pm: i have few friend who tell me that i should start , and try since i have very acidic water for my fish GA

[] 8:19 pm: but the CO2 will drive it down anyway if your tank belongs to high lighted

[] 8:19 pm: You can grow many plants in somewhat acidic waters... but that isn't always true in very hard water.....

[] 8:19 pm : BD can you explain that more? Why not?

[] 8:20 pm

: You don't want too have your water TOO acidic... as the plants do need some calcium and magnesium and carbonates

[] 8:20 pm : most of the aquatic plants are from acidic origin I guess

[] 8:20 pm : which will all contribute to gH and kH, and thus pH

[] 8:20 pm : !

[] 8:20 pm : so, a breeding apisto tank with a pH of 4.5 might not be an ideal place for some plants

[] 8:21 pm : GA Zap

[] 8:21 pm : maybe good for Tonina type plants Zapisto

[] 8:21 pm : but they require high light!

[] 8:21 pm

: my tank are in a PH between 4 and 5 average , and i have multiple problems with lot of plants, with some other specie they grow like bad grass

[] 8:21 pm : GA

[] 8:21 pm : !

[] 8:22 pm : GA RoxyDog

[] 8:22 pm : what is a good way to add calcium to the water ? GA

[] 8:22 pm : Two things I have used

[] 8:23 pm : Calcium carbonate - which dissolves okay in a CO2 injected tank

[] 8:23 pm : and now I am using Gypsum - calcium sulphate?

[] 8:23 pm: I use Calcium Carbonate too

[] 8:23 pm: which dissolves much more easily than CaCO3

[] 8:23 pm: ya

[] 8:23 pm: sort of

[] 8:23 pm: from gardening centre

[] 8:23 pm: the grey stuff

[] 8:23 pm: both can be purchased at wine and beer making stores for very little

[] 8:24 pm: I think I pay 50 cents for a "prescription bottle" of gypsum

[] 8:24 pm: which will last a couple of months

[] 8:24 pm: What are Tonina plants, Jetstream?

[] 8:24 pm : There are resources on the web to determine how much to dose based on your tank size....

[] 8:25 pm : It's from South America

[] 8:25 pm : !

[] 8:25 pm : is breaking her own rules - oops :) GA

[] 8:25 pm : GA Art

[] 8:25 pm : Calcium is the second ingredient in Seachem Equilibrium (potassium being the 1st) thats what I use. GA

[] 8:26 pm : Tonina and Erialon prefer strong acidic water

[] 8:26 pm : !

[] 8:26 pm : GA shrimpy

[] 8:26 pm : True Art... Seachem products are good... but can get expensive in the long run

[] 8:26 pm : what type of substrate do you use for your tanks? GA

[] 8:26 pm : I guess Seachem equilibrium contains some form of carbon in it

[] 8:27 pm

: My high light and medium light tanks all use Seachem Flourish.... I also have used "natural gravel" and some sands

[] 8:27 pm: for my tanks, I use pool filtering sand,soil condition and I added root tabs, latrite

[] 8:27 pm: soil conditioner

[] 8:28 pm: typo error

[] 8:28 pm: I have used estes gravel with a laterite base in the past too

[] 8:28 pm: !

[] 8:28 pm : GA Shrimpy

[] 8:29 pm : When it comes to lighting and plants, what type of lights, fixtures, wattage should a newbie consider.

[] 8:29 pm : ga

[] 8:29 pm : I actually recommend that newbies start with either a low or medium light tank....

[] 8:29 pm : to get their feet wet

[] 8:30 pm : I will recommend get ready for med-high setup

[] 8:30 pm : and to stop them from spending tons of money on high light, co2 etc... only to get frustrated

[] 8:30 pm : !

[] 8:30 pm : you will have much more choice and say a bit of money later on

[] 8:31 pm : !

[] 8:31 pm : Double light strip hoods for most tanks will give someone a good start at a low to medium light tank

[sas] 8:31 pm : !

[] 8:31 pm : GA Zapisto

[] 8:31 pm : do you think it is a must to have CO2 to have a nice planted tank ? CA

[] 8:31 pm : GA

[] 8:31 pm : no

[] 8:31 pm : not a must!

[] 8:31 pm : No way... some of the nicer tanks I have seen have been medium light

[] 8:32 pm : even high light plants will survive in low light tank

[] 8:32 pm : minimal algae issues, low maintenance...

[] 8:32 pm : but they just survive and won't show their potential at all

[] 8:32 pm : CO2 is a benefit to plants.... but it is not a requirement if you stay below certain light levels

[] 8:32 pm : GA darkdep

[] 8:33 pm : I've recently set up several African tanks and I have obtained a lot of mature Java Fern.

[] 8:33 pm : Lighting is a single 24w T5HO with Reflector over a 40gallon Breeder (15" high)

[] 8:34 pm

: Right now, I just want to utilize this (supposedly) simple plant, but I want them to remain green and good looking.

[] 8:34 pm : give them a bit more light

[] 8:34 pm : Recommendations for planting and any supplements?

[] 8:34 pm : too low light level they will turn brown

[] 8:34 pm : GA

[] 8:34 pm : a single 24 watt HO puts out

[] 8:35 pm : is it what happening to you Java Fern now? DD?

[] 8:35 pm : about the same light energy as two NO T8 bulbs...

[] 8:35 pm : give or take  
>[] 8:35 pm : Nothing is turning brown yet; actually I think the tanks are quite bright.  
>[] 8:35 pm: Make sure the rhizomes have good water circulation  
>[] 8:35 pm: then they are fine  
>[] 8:35 pm: to avoid rot  
>[] 8:36 pm: I just got 25 plants on the weekend, and want to plant them this week (most are just floating under light right now)  
>[] 8:36 pm: I found that with lower lighting level, their leaves stay small  
>[] 8:36 pm: and if your water is at least gH and kH 3, you'll have enough nutrients in the water to maintain them  
>[] 8:36 pm: Can I simply half-bury them, or would it be better to fish-line them?  
>[] 8:36 pm : You can't bury the rhizome  
>[] 8:36 pm : Only the root hairs...  
>[] 8:36 pm : your aficionado will dig them up anyway! :)  
>[] 8:37 pm : If the rhizome isn't exposed to current, it will rot and the plant will die  
>[] 8:37 pm : Nope, I think I found a solution to that Jetstream  
>[] 8:37 pm : Current, ok good. So fish-lining them to the rocks might be better  
>[] 8:37 pm: I've even had a java fern die because I couldn't get all the rock wool out from between the roots before I tied it down  
>[] 8:38 pm: How long does it take them to adhere if tied?  
>[] 8:38 pm : it depends  
>[] 8:38 pm: 2 to 3 months  
>[] 8:38 pm : more if they are getting disturbed often  
>[] 8:38 pm : hard to give a solid answer to your question, DD  
>[] 8:38 pm : but once they do grab on.. you will be able to lift the rock/wood by the plant first  
>[] 8:39 pm : Awesome, thanks guys  
>[] 8:39 pm : GA sas  
>[] 8:39 pm : !  
>[] 8:39 pm : !  
>[] 8:39 pm : Ok Tags that describe plants are they accurate  
>[] 8:40 pm : you can use them as a guideline  
>[] 8:40 pm : Ga  
>[] 8:40 pm : of course, there are still some exceptions  
>[] 8:40 pm : they are a good starting point.. but subjective  
>[] 8:40 pm : Tropica uses a number system I still haven't totally figured out LOL  
>[] 8:40 pm : To me there seems a large leeway?  
>[] 8:40 pm: me too  
>[] 8:41 pm: your right sas  
>[] 8:41 pm: OK  
>[] 8:41 pm: best thing is to do your own research, or ask someone else who keeps the plant you are considering  
>[] 8:41 pm: of course, in the real world, low light maybe equal to extrem high light inside out tank  
>[] 8:41 pm: GA Zapisto  
>[] 8:41 pm: try use a light meter measure the sun  
>[] 8:41 pm: at your point of view what is the best size to start a nice planted tank? is easier with big volume , or still faisable with small volume ?  
>[] 8:42 pm: GA  
>[] 8:42 pm: it's out of range even under cloudy sky  
>[] 8:42 pm: small tanks are tricky for planting  
>[] 8:42 pm: ya  
>[] 8:42 pm: the "WPG rule" doesn't work on them  
>[] 8:42 pm: and it is hard to get good lighting over them  
>[] 8:42 pm: plus, not a lot of room for error  
>[] 8:42 pm: a good tank is a larger tank that isn't tall  
>[] 8:43 pm: 20 gallon or 40 gallon longs are great starter tanks  
>[] 8:43 pm: you can get good plant growth even with the standard hood for them since there isn't a lot of water to penetrate  
>[] 8:43 pm: but most of the tank in North America or lfs are not too tall! :)

[] 8:44 pm: stay away from tanks over 24 inches high to start

[] 8:44 pm: 12 to 18 inches high is managable

[] 8:44 pm: GA Shrimpy

[] 8:44 pm: When using CO2, other than monitoring your pH levels can you detect the amount of CO2 in your tank?  
How can you tell if you are giving too much or not enough? GA

[] 8:45 pm : I only test my water once a while now

[] 8:45 pm : too much is easy

[] 8:45 pm : the fish will be in distress... gasping at the surface

[] 8:45 pm : all your fishes will die if too much

[] 8:45 pm : What if you don't have any fish?

[] 8:46 pm: then will be much easier

[] 8:46 pm: then you can't really have too much

[] 8:46 pm: ya

[] 8:46 pm: there's a point where the plants just can use anymore of the CO2

[] 8:46 pm: not enough... assuming your fert's are okay, your plants won't "pearl"

[] 8:46 pm: CO2 is the single biggest limiting factor in a high light tank

[] 8:46 pm: Define "pearl" please.

[] 8:47 pm : O2 appears on the leaves

[] 8:47 pm : And the one that causes 90 percent of algae issues

[] 8:47 pm : !

[] 8:47 pm : GA sas

[] 8:47 pm : the oxygen bubbles look like tiny pearls under the leaves.....

[] 8:48 pm : Can you us what type of cycle you use for lights on , off,and co2 off?

[] 8:48 pm: Sorry Tell

[] 8:49 pm: my lights are 12 on and 12 off, and same for CO2

[] 8:49 pm: I keep my tanks light on approx 10 hours

[] 8:49 pm: Ga

[] 8:49 pm: currently my CO2 and lights go on at the same time... but I may change it to have the CO2 on 1 hour earlier than lights

[] 8:49 pm: my CO2 on 1 hours before and off 1 hour ahead of the lights

[] 8:50 pm: Thanks

[] 8:50 pm: But I shot it very high!

[] 8:50 pm : almost put all my plecos to sleep few weeks ago

[] 8:50 pm : I guess the ph just collapsed

[] 8:50 pm : plecos are good CO2 detectors....

[] 8:51 pm: ya

[] 8:51 pm: they don't react well to overdoses and it is clear to see

[] 8:51 pm: they can survive very high CO2 level

[] 8:51 pm: but my guess that the reasons my babies not grow very fast as other breeder

[] 8:52 pm: any more questions?

[] 8:53 pm : !

[] 8:53 pm : Hello

[] 8:53 pm : GA Zap

[] 8:53 pm : why we have to avoid fish in planted tanks ?

[] 8:54 pm : You don't zap...

[] 8:54 pm: you don't need to avoid fish in a planted tank

[] 8:54 pm: just people put min

[] 8:54 pm: ok

[] 8:54 pm: its just that plants become such a focal point, people don't want a lot of fish obstructing the view of their plants!

[] 8:55 pm : What is your favourite plant, experts?

[] 8:55 pm : !

[] 8:55 pm : all of the plants are my favour plants

[] 8:55 pm

: for example zap... I have a 75 gallon that is well planted and I have 9 apistos, 18 pencilfish and 3 bushynose...

[] 8:56 pm : not exactly a Low Fish Tank

[] 8:56 pm : !  
>[] 8:57 pm : I'd like to welcome our 3rd expert to the room, Toss  
>[] 8:57 pm : hi all  
>[] 8:57 pm : GA Zoe  
>[] 8:57 pm : hi Toss! you are late! :)  
>[] 8:58 pm : haha...gotta put the girls to bed first  
>[] 8:58 pm  
: I don't think this has been covered already but forgive me if it has. I recently lost a GBR, and zapisto thinks it may be from low pH in the morning, as i left my CO2 on 24/7. Has this happened to anyone else? Is it really that big a no-no?  
>[] 8:58 pm: german blue rams are a bit like discus  
>[] 8:58 pm: they don't like extreme changes  
>[] 8:58 pm: if the ph changes slowly, they should be ok  
>[] 8:59 pm: but if your pH is swinging gradually over a 24 hour period... as jetstream says, it shouldn't be an issue  
>[] 8:59 pm: unless you dose your CO2 to very extreme  
>[] 8:59 pm: if they start looking pale...means they don't like the water  
>[] 8:59 pm: They were just starting to colour up... So you're thinking it probably isn't what caused the death? Hm.  
Thanks  
>[] 9:00 pm : I've kept rams in a high light heavily CO2 injected tank and been fine....  
>[] 9:00 pm : must be something else  
>[] 9:00 pm : I had few before under high light with CO2 without any problem  
>[] 9:01 pm : I don't think you overdose your CO2  
>[] 9: 01 pm : !  
>[] 9:01 pm : GA darkdep - one question ;)  
>[] 9:01 pm: shrimp got one in first  
>[] 9:01 pm: just after zoe  
>[] 9:02 pm: I'll wait  
>[] 9:02 pm: i'm sorry shrimp, GA  
>[] 9:02 pm: Are there any fish or other creatures to avoid in a heavily planted tank? GA  
>[] 9:02 pm : avoid large size fishes  
>[] 9:02 pm : that's what I will say!  
>[] 9: 03 pm : some species of snails....  
>[] 9: 03 pm : goldfish  
>[] 9:03 pm : and don't keep SAE with moss  
>[] 9: 03 pm : riccia... they will graze down your riccia in minutes  
>[] 9:03 pm : that too!  
>[] 9: 03 pm : they like to nibble on it and not eating the algae  
>[] 9:04 pm : easier food for them! :(  
>[] 9:04 pm : GA darkdep - but you still only get one question :)  
>[] 9: 04 pm : anything you thinking of specifically shrimp?  
>[] 9: 05 pm : ! if i'm allowed to ask another  
>[] 9:05 pm : (just one, yes) Are there test kits to measure Potassium in the water?  
>[] 9:05 pm : after darkdep, Zoe  
>[] 9:05 pm : No, not in particular. Just curious  
>[] 9:05 pm : too expensive  
>[] 9: 05 pm : !  
>[] 9:05 pm : I mean for a K test kit  
>[] 9: 06 pm : !  
>[] 9: 06 pm : its called a turbidity test  
>[] 9:06 pm : and overdose of K won't cause you any problem  
>[] 9: 06 pm : and it is pretty expensive for an accurate one  
>[] 9: 06 pm : thx!  
>[] 9:06 pm : GA Zoe  
>[] 9: 07 pm : Is there a plant that will survive shellie-type conditions? High pH, and hard?  
>[] 9:07 pm : Crypt  
>[] 9:07 pm : african ferns  
>[] 9:07 pm : will survive high ph

[] 9: 07 pm : anubias  
>[] 9: 07 pm : anubias and java fern  
>[] 9:07 pm : vals should do okay  
>[] 9: 07 pm : Is that the lasagna plant, the crypt?  
>[] 9: 08 pm : not sure what you mean by lasagna plant zoe....  
>[] 9: 08 pm : The leaves look like lasagna noodled  
>[] 9:08 pm : I will say over 50% of the Crypt will survive high ph except some exotic ones  
>[] 9: 08 pm : crinum?  
>[] 9: 08 pm : I think that's what she means  
>[] 9:09 pm : or the Tropica crypt  
>[] 9: 09 pm : not sure what kind of pH tolerance crinum has... let me see what Kasselman says  
>[] 9: 09 pm : !  
>[] 9: 09 pm  
: Maybe... it's got a "bulb", all the leaves from from the bulb. They are fairly thin, long and krimped on the sides  
>[] 9:09 pm : GA Aquaviewer  
>[] 9: 09 pm : that is crinum  
>[] 9:09 pm : then maybe your bulb is just starting out  
>[] 9: 10 pm : What are your thoughts on substrate heating? Does it help stabilize planted tanks over the long term?  
>[] 9: 10 pm : hang tight  
>[] 9:10 pm : or the bulb is not doing well  
>[] 9: 10 pm : Kasselman lists crinum as soft to medium hard  
>[] 9: 10 pm : so a shellie tank might not be the best for crinum... but you can always try....  
>[] 9:11 pm : substrate is nice but not necessary  
>[] 9: 11 pm : Sorry Aquaviewer....  
>[] 9:11 pm : I mean substrate heating cable  
>[] 9: 11 pm : Substrate heaters just provide more flow through the substrate  
>[] 9: 11 pm : Aerate the substrate through convection  
>[] 9: 11 pm : MTS are a much cheaper solution  
>[] 9: 11 pm : !  
>[] 9: 12 pm : Can't talk about them from direct experience, as I haven't used them in my tanks  
>[] 9:12 pm : GA charlie  
>[] 9: 12 pm : has anyone used glycerine in there co2 bubble counter, & are they any negative effects GA  
>[] 9:12 pm : nope  
>[] 9:12 pm : sorry all I'm lagging here big time :(  
>[] 9:13 pm : I've heard of people using mineral oil...  
>[] 9:13 pm : it should cause you any trouble from what I know Charlie  
>[] 9:13 pm : no problems there...  
>[] 9:13 pm : I mean shouldn't typo error again  
>[] 9:13 pm : it jsut stop the evaporation on the tube!  
>[] 9:14 pm: THX GA  
>[] 9:14 pm: if you use tap water, you see all the condensation above your counter  
>[] 9:14 pm: GA sas  
>[] 9:14 pm: Green algae and brown algae on leaves, does that significantly block light the same as in house plants?GA  
>[] 9:14 pm: depends on the plant  
>[] 9:15 pm: fine leaved plants will be harder hit by algae on their surfaces than something like anubias for example  
>[] 9:15 pm: BGA will smother some plants... but others can still survive for months covered in it  
>[] 9:15 pm: Spoken from experience! LOL  
>[] 9:16 pm : !  
>[] 9:16 pm : GA Zoe  
>[] 9:16 pm : What could cause plant leaves to fall apart? 3 w/gal, CO2... Banana plants, chain swords, for example  
>[] 9:17 pm: lots of things will cause the leaves fall apart  
>[] 9:17 pm: maybe some plants are blocking others  
>[] 9:17 pm: No  
>[] 9:17 pm: lots of time is the lighting level or N  
>[] 9:18 pm: N?  
>[] 9:18 pm : Nitrogen

[] 9:18 pm : or during transition to submersed grow

[] 9:18 pm : In planted tanks, nitrate

[] 9:18 pm : Ah

[] 9:18 pm : Too high or too low?

[] 9:18 pm: most of the plants that you buy from lfs store are grow emersed

[] 9:18 pm: usually too low

[] 9:19 pm: when you put them in your tank, all the old leaves will fall off

[] 9:19 pm: Oh!

[] 9:19 pm: very common with stem plants

[] 9:19 pm: some plants loss their leave because the water is too warm for them

[] 9:19 pm: and the new leaves will come out slowly in submersed form

[] 9:19 pm: to be grown emersed that is

[] 9:20 pm: GA charlie

[] 9:20 pm: it is said that lower nitrates will bring out more red in red plants, how does this work. GA

[] 9:20 pm: ya

[] 9:20 pm: yes, but forget the pigments name inside the plants

[] 9:21 pm: same here

[] 9:21 pm: I will try to find out when I get home later on

[] 9:21 pm: but it is true... high nitrate and sunset hygro will grow in completely green with white veins

[] 9:21 pm: !

[] 9:22 pm : lower the nitrates, and it will go pink to almost purple

[] 9:22 pm : it's not the iron that bring out the red, it's a myth!

[] 9:22 pm : yes the common myth is that red plants need lots of iron

[] 9:22 pm : GA Zoe

[] 9:23 pm : How many WPG for pennywort?

[] 9:23 pm : depends what's your own expectations

[] 9:23 pm : next to none if it is floating

[] 9:24 pm : Is 3 enough?

[] 9:24 pm : more than enoug

[] 9:24 pm : !

[] 9:24 pm : what size tank and what lights... just in case

[] 9:24 pm : 65W compact flu, 30gal

[] 9:24 pm : more than enough

[] 9:24 pm : well 28gal

[] 9:25 pm : Enough for vals, too? My vals are looking mangy.

[] 9:25 pm : GA Zoe

[] 9:25 pm : I find a lot of times with vals, they don't like transplant shock

[] 9:25 pm : so the original vals die off... but the runners do great

[] 9:25 pm : Will they get over it?

[] 9:25 pm : Great

[] 9:25 pm : I found that my vals need a bit more light to do well

[] 9:26 pm : and don't use Seachem Excel with Vals

[] 9:26 pm : Is fertilizer / trace elements necessary?

[] 9:26 pm : At higher lighting levels, definately

[] 9:26 pm : it's hard to give you an solid answer on this one

[] 9:27 pm : Well,will my vals recover in said tank with trace elements?

[] 9:27 pm: maybe because it was bottom out before

[] 9:27 pm: first off give us your definition of "trace elements"

[] 9:27 pm: different people have different ideas on what traces are

[] 9:28 pm: Um... it came from zapisto and it's called Trace Elements for Plants

[] 9:28 pm: those aren't really traces

[] 9:29 pm: it lists N P and K

[] 9:29 pm: those are macros

[] 9:29 pm: !

[] 9:29 pm : i.e. nutrients your plants need lots of

[] 9:29 pm : traces are things like boron, zinc, etc.....

[] 9:29 pm : "Trace elements for your plants. Includes everything needed : phosphorus,?nitrogen and others."  
>[] 9:29 pm : GA Zapisto  
>[] 9:29 pm : those are macros  
>[] 9:29 pm : BD they are trace  
>[] 9:30 pm : and not macro  
>[] 9:30 pm : that you mentioned Zoe  
>[] 9:30 pm : they contain boron, zinc, etc... and make specially for aquarium plant  
>[] 9:31 pm  
>[] 9:31 pm : Okay... so you need to change the description zap ;) Yes trace elements are a good thing... but only if you have your macros down Zoe  
>[] 9:31 pm : Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, B, Mo  
>[] 9:31 pm : I guess what made the difference between the Trace elements is the chelator inside  
>[] 9:32 pm : and N.P.K also  
>[] 9:32 pm : some more stable than others  
>[] 9:32 pm : !  
>[] 9:32 pm : and all chelated  
>[] 9:32 pm : GA Zoe  
>[] 9:32 pm : Do I need anything more than the stuff I just mentioned? lol  
>[] 9:32 pm : ya, they are all chelated. But some are more stable  
>[] 9:32 pm : will last longer in water  
>[] 9:33 pm : ready for the plants to use!  
>[] 9:33 pm : yep  
>[] 9:33 pm : basically that's what you need. micro and macros  
>[] 9:33 pm : I do? What?  
>[] 9:33 pm : CO2 and lighting  
>[] 9:33 pm : Oh. Awesome.  
>[] 9:33 pm : Zoe.... if you have your CO2 in order (around 30ppm) you won't need much more  
>[] 9:34 pm : start with little dose  
>[] 9:34 pm : CO2 is the biggest nutrient people don't get right  
>[] 9:34 pm : are there test strips for that, or how do you check?  
>[] 9:34 pm : you have a nice medium light tank... as toss said... small changes  
>[] 9:35 pm : there are 2 methods  
>[] 9:35 pm : ph and kh table  
>[] 9:35 pm : or over night 1 degree drops method! :)  
>[] 9:35 pm : my KH is like 0  
>[] 9:35 pm : or use your eye as your judgement tool  
>[] 9:36 pm : if you are injecting CO2.. .you need to up your kH a bit  
>[] 9:36 pm : to keep the pH stable....  
>[] 9:36 pm : Water in Ottawa is around 1 kh I guess  
>[] 9:36 pm : or eyeball it ... when you see little bubbles coming out from the edge of the leaves...they ae cooking  
>[] 9:36 pm : How?  
>[] 9:36 pm : bubbles on leaves are bad?  
>[] 9:36 pm : as Toss said  
>[] 9:36 pm : uhoh  
>[] 9:36 pm : good  
>[] 9:36 pm : it's pearling  
>[] 9:36 pm : ya  
>[] 9:37 pm : side note: if anyone else is waiting to ask a question, just type an exclamation mark to let me know !  
>[] 9:37 pm : Can I keep yapping if no one else is asking questions? i'm a plant dunce  
>[] 9:37 pm: enough CO2 in the water that the plant cook the food and generate O2  
>[] 9:37 pm: i use my riccia as indicator  
>[] 9:38 pm: !  
>[] 9:38 pm : I am sort of risking my fishes! :)  
>[] 9:38 pm: I lied, kH is 49  
>[] 9:38 pm: 40\*  
>[] 9:38 pm: 40ppm or 40 degrees LOL

[] 9:38 pm: which is around 3 german kh  
>[] 9:38 pm: GA Shrimpy  
>[] 9:39 pm: not bad  
>[] 9:39 pm: From my opinion, your plants more rely on the gh  
>[] 9:40 pm: I have a small tank with a severe case of BGA. I tried the blackout method, but stopped after 3 days instead of 5. My plants took a beating and the BGA came back. Do you think the plants could withstand a 5 day blackout?  
>[] 9:40 pm : kh is the buffering capacity of ph changes  
>[] 9:40 pm : if they are healthy to start with  
>[] 9:40 pm : they should be fine  
>[] 9:40 pm : BGA usually comes from a lack of nitrate...  
>[] 9:40 pm : so when you do your blackout... add some nitrate if you can  
>[] 9:41 pm : CO2 + trimming affected leaves killed my BGA... if I am permitted to share my experience :)  
>[] 9:41 pm : and then once it is gone... make sure you always have some nitrate in your tank....  
>[] 9:41 pm : Is nitrate okay with shrimp??  
>[] 9:42 pm : only at low level  
>[] 9:42 pm : depends on what kind of shrimps too  
>[] 9:42 pm : I'm talking about 5ppm  
>[] 9:42 pm : not a lot of nitrate  
>[] 9:42 pm : some can handle higher level  
>[] 9:42 pm : Okay thanks.  
>[] 9:42 pm : but the baies won't do well in high level of N  
>[] 9:43 pm : Good to know thanks  
>[] 9:43 pm : paloe likely had to reboot  
>[] 9:43 pm : matt... care to take over until she gets back?  
>[] 9:44 pm : I got to go! My pleasure chat with you all!  
>[] 9:44 pm : Thanks!  
>[] 9:44 pm : Thanks Ken!  
>[] 9:44 pm : I can go non-stop!  
>[] 9:44 pm : see ya ken  
>[] 9:44 pm : about plants!  
>[] 9:44 pm : see you all later!  
>[] 9:45 pm : sorry was away  
>[] 9:45 pm : ok so who's next  
>[] 9:45 pm : I don't believe anyone yet....  
>[] 9:45 pm : questions?  
>[] 9:45 pm : !  
>[] 9:45 pm: i have one  
>[] 9:45 pm: GA charlie  
>[] 9:46 pm: Does it matter if you dose macro & micro @ the same time  
>[] 9:46 pm: Nope  
>[] 9:46 pm: I just do it on opposite days so that I'm always putting something in the tank everyday to remind myself....  
>[] 9:47 pm : How often should one dose?  
>[] 9:47 pm : macros day one, traces 2, macros 3, traces 4, etc.....  
>[] 9:47 pm : I do mine on different days too  
>[] 9:47 pm : GA toss  
>[] 9:48 pm : BD, have ever succed on propagating banana plant?  
>[] 9:48 pm: I have never kept banana plants  
>[] 9:49 pm: GA Zoe  
>[] 9:49 pm: !  
>[] 9:49 pm: How often should one dose t/m elements? Daily?  
>[] 9:49 pm: depends on your dosages and how much your plants uptake  
[>-]mseguin] 9:50 pm: I can only scroll back to 9:33  
>[] 9:50 pm: too much will go to algae  
[>-] 9:50 pm: figured  
>[] 9:51 pm: start small and keep increasing till you see algae growing

[] 9:51 pm: tom barr has something he calls "The Estimative Index"

[] 9:51 pm: Daily?

[] 9:51 pm: if you google it, it will give you some good pointers

[] 9:51 pm: you don't have a very high light tank, which EI is based on... but you can adapt it to your tank

[] 9:52 pm: GA charlie

[] 9:52 pm: have you guy`s heard of Paul Sears from Ottawa, apparently he is a plant guru & wrote a few articles , would be nice to have him do a presentation @ our meeting.

[] 9:52 pm: myself, i do it every water change

[] 9:52 pm: I have heard of him

[] 9:53 pm: His paper is now pretty much now obsolete

[] 9:53 pm: the ideas and methods he used have pretty much been proven mostly inaccurate...

[] 9:53 pm: it would be good to see what his ideas are now though.. but the Sears and Colins paper is pretty much ancient history now

[] 9:54 pm: Thx

[] 9:55 pm: Well guys, it's almost 10

[] 9:55 pm: Let's wrap up the official session for now

[] 9:55 pm: I have to go :) thanks guys!

[] 9:55 pm: but feel free to stay and chat

[] 9:55 pm: thanks to Big Daddy, Toss and Jetstream for their expertise

[] 9:55 pm: it was a cool start

[] 9:55 pm: good to see you all

[] 9:55 pm: and please join us next Wednesday at 8:30 for a chat on Starting an African Tank with darkdep, our very own APW :)

[] 9:55 pm: This was great, enjoyed it , see you all & thanks

[] 9:55 pm: looking forward to being one of the ones asking the questions next time