

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:32 pm: care to tell us a little bit about yourself first?

[charlie] 6:35 pm: Hi tom, how is the new trace working in your test period

[plantbrain] 6:35 pm: I have been keeping fish for about 35 years now.

[plantbrain] 6:36 pm: Trace testing is going very well

[plantbrain] 6:36 pm: I just prefer to check things myself.

[plantbrain] 6:36 pm: I was hoping for June, but it looks like Oct now.

[charlie] 6:37 pm: cant wait to try it

[plantbrain] 6:37 pm: It's much like Tropica master grow and Seachem Flourish, but it's like the DIY ferts CMS dry trace mix, but 20X cheaper than Tropica or Seachem

[plantbrain] 6:37 pm: CMS is all ETDA which does not work well at higher KH's

[plantbrain] 6:38 pm: I hate paying for water for shipping and product also.

[plantbrain] 6:38 pm: This will be the most aquatic plant specific trace ever made though

[plantbrain] 6:38 pm: I'm just developing it and then retail folks will sell it etc

[plantbrain] 6:39 pm: I hate retail:)

[plantbrain] 6:39 pm: Most folks know me for aquatic plants

[] 6:39 pm: Tom... if you had a choice between misting and a reactor, which method of diffusion would you choose?

[plantbrain] 6:39 pm: I have breed mnany fish and keep many other aspects in the hobby however.

[OVAS General Chat]: PineHill has entered at 6:39 pm

[charlie] 6:39 pm: Tom recently , i`ve noticed recently a resurgence of the " siesta " approach for algae control, can you explain if this ias a possible method or myth & why

[plantbrain] 6:40 pm: Choice? I guess it would depend on the user more than anything, we all have different aesthetics and goals

[plantbrain] 6:40 pm: I like mist and microbubbles

[plantbrain] 6:40 pm: So does ADA

[plantbrain] 6:40 pm: Some make issue with them floatign around, many reef folks hate skimmer bubbles also

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:41 pm: just a reminder to go ahead and ask away if you have a question... Mr. Barr says he can handle 4-6 at a time, so fire away!

[] 6:41 pm: is one more effecient than the other?

[OVAS General Chat]: Aiglos has entered at 6:41 pm

[plantbrain] 6:41 pm: Siesta was suggested by a certain author, it does not harm or hurt anything, but it does not control algae. AQt least is doies not cost anythign and they tell you some line and ask for 19.95\$

[plantbrain] 6:42 pm: You can turn the question around: does a lack of a siesta induce algae?

[plantbrain] 6:42 pm: No, seems silly when you ask it that way

[] 6:42 pm: some members with african tanks seem to think so.....

[Crumpet] 6:43 pm: for the uninitiated, what is "siesta"?

[plantbrain] 6:43 pm: I think if you are using CO2( alittle too little), and you shut the CO2 uptake by the plants "off", the CO2 ppms build back up and then you have enough CO2 for the light etc

[plantbrain] 6:44 pm: So if you had good CO2 to start with, you'd not had the success because.....you did not have a CO2 issue to start with

[plantbrain] 6:44 pm: As far as a siesta being "natural", that's bogus

[plantbrain] 6:45 pm: Some suggested it was natural due to cluds during midday

[PineHill] 6:45 pm: I'm trying to figure out how many WPG I need for my 110 gallon tall tank (30"deep) and my 125 gallon long tank (22"deep). I understand that the usually WPG does not work since they're larger tanks so I'm curious about lux per square inch, what lux is and where it comes from.

[plantbrain] 6:45 pm: Well, many places in the tropics have clouds at all sorts of times, there's little pattern compared to all the species and habitats that we find aquatic plants, this cannot be generalized

[OVAS General Chat]: RoxyDog has entered at 6:46 pm

[PineHill] 6:46 pm: My plants gerenally include amazon swords, spiral vals and java ferns, so low-medium lighting I beleive

[plantbrain] 6:46 pm: Siesta does no harm, but it's not going to cure your algae from the root cause. Non planted tanks can perhaps do better with well, less light or a blackout for a week, that will kill all algae pretty much.

[plantbrain] 6:47 pm: For a 110 gallon, I like T5's, so perhaps 3-4 x 54 watt or so ought to do very nicely

[plantbrain] 6:47 pm: 125 gallon, perhaps 6x 39 w T5's.

[plantbrain] 6:48 pm: Thos eplants will be fine with that light

[] 6:48 pm: I had a question about lighting and reflectors

[PineHill] 6:48 pm: Ok thanks, for a 6' long tank what is the best choice of fixture?

[plantbrain] 6:48 pm: Sure, use them:)

[plantbrain] 6:49 pm: 6x39w T5's

[] 6:49 pm: Would it be better to have fewer T5's with individual reflectors, or more T5's jammed under a "generic" reflector

[plantbrain] 6:49 pm: No, more individual reflectors

[plantbrain] 6:49 pm: You get bounce and restrike with a big single reflector

[] 6:49 pm: say 4 to 6 under individual reflectors compared to 10 to 12 under a generic

[plantbrain] 6:49 pm: You can also aim the light better and spread it out good

[] 6:50 pm: enough to make it less overall light with twice as many bulbs?

[PineHill] 6:50 pm: I meant length, as in two 36" light fixtures? Since I don't knwo if they sell 6' long builbs and how convinient that would be for me

[plantbrain] 6:50 pm: I like less light for most folks, for a 125 gallon tank, 6 x 3ft lights is ideal

[plantbrain] 6:51 pm: You turn one 1 bank, then 2, then 3, then turn off 1, then 2 and then 3. Sun rise sun set effect

[PineHill] 6:51 pm: Perfect, thanks

[OVAS General Chat]: sas has left at 6:51 pm

[plantbrain] 6:51 pm: 6ft bulbs are harder to find in many cases IME

[OVAS General Chat]: beowulf has left at 6:51 pm

[PineHill] 6:51 pm: yea too much hassle I think too

[] 6:52 pm: The only T5 reflectors available up here are the prebundled Hagens, and Ice Cap

[] 6:52 pm: Any other good options that could be imported to Canada?

[plantbrain] 6:52 pm: Most folks add too much light or are poor at adding CO2, T5's are nice since you do not need much

[plantbrain] 6:52 pm: I'm not sure in the reflector area

[plantbrain] 6:53 pm: Canada has some advantages, some not so good

[PineHill] 6:53 pm: where is the best place to get two 3' 3 bulb light fixtures?

[plantbrain] 6:53 pm: Heck, you'll have to do your own search there, I do not sell them:)

[plantbrain] 6:53 pm: And I'm glad:)

[PineHill] 6:53 pm: haha ok

[plantbrain] 6:54 pm: Just look around and ask

[OVAS General Chat]: sas has entered at 6:54 pm

[PineHill] 6:54 pm: The sun rise sun set technique...how do I achieve this? With timers?

[plantbrain] 6:55 pm: Yep, just add 2x 39w on one timer, then the next 2x39W etc

[plantbrain] 6:55 pm: They typically come in 2x 54 or 2x 24, or 2x 39 w sizes

[plantbrain] 6:55 pm: 3 banks gives you a nice wide spread over most tank depths

[PineHill] 6:56 pm: what exactly are banks, does this mean i can take one bulb off and leave the other on?

[plantbrain] 6:56 pm: This allows the light to strike at 3 main angles so you get nicer fuller growth and better fish and plantr colors

[] 6:56 pm: Here is one for you Tom..... I have Echinodorus palaeifolius... unfortunately I didn't prune fast enough and all the leaves have gone straight to the surface... can it be "pruned back hard" like a shrub down to the roots and regrow, or will an aquatic die off doing that

[plantbrain] 6:56 pm: More light washes out colors of plants and fish

[plantbrain] 6:57 pm: A bank is a linear line of lights, say 2x39w one a 6ft tank.

[plantbrain] 6:57 pm: Swords are very tough plants.

[plantbrain] 6:57 pm: I think you can pinch the leaves, but it's hard to keep them small and once they know wher ethe surface is, they will bolt for it

[PineHill] 6:57 pm: How do I get one bulb in a fixture of three bulbs to remain on while the others are off?

[PineHill] 6:58 pm: And is that what you mean by sunrise sunset?

[plantbrain] 6:58 pm: I just use Crypts instead of swords as they stay smaller

[PineHill] 6:58 pm: So once a sword hits the surface it will grow taller rather then thicker?

[plantbrain] 6:58 pm: You would require 3x separate ballast for that

[PineHill] 6:59 pm: yea I would want 2 ballasts that hold 3 t5 39W each, right?

[plantbrain] 6:59 pm: Yes, the sunrise is 1 light on, then 2x lights one and finally at noon, all 3. The n you turn them off in reverse order.

[FishPassion] 6:59 pm: I m thinking of setting up an 8 foot tank by one foot high for salt water plants and a few tube anenomes what kind of lighting would be suitable as I am mostly tring to grow some different types of algae

[PineHill] 6:59 pm: yea thought so, that woudl require 6 ballasts though right?

[plantbrain] 6:59 pm: Yes, once most any plant "taste" the surface, they will bolt.

[plantbrain] 6:59 pm: Lots more light and CO2 up there!

[plantbrain] 7:00 pm: T5's are nice for most macro algae

[plantbrain] 7:00 pm: PC's also

[PineHill] 7:00 pm: haha yea, i was wondering why my young swords in my nursery were taller than their mother only after about a month.

[sas] 7:01 pm: Tom , when a plant blooms like an annubias, newly planted.....should the bloom be pinched off?

[plantbrain] 7:01 pm: Macros do well from about 2-5 w/gal  
[plantbrain] 7:01 pm: I pinch them off.  
[OVAS General Chat]: featherfin has entered at 7:01 pm  
[FishPassion] 7:01 pm: but even on a 12 inch high tank ???  
[plantbrain] 7:01 pm: Up to you, many are all excited when they get their first flower  
[FishPassion] 7:01 pm: its a homemade custom tank  
[PineHill] 7:01 pm: I would want 2 ballasts that hold 3 t5 39W each for my 6', even though I wouldnt be able to do sunrise sunset right?  
[plantbrain] 7:02 pm: 12" H tank is fine for a bank of T5's, you can use a shop light if you wish, might look tacky, but can grow most macros still  
[OVAS General Chat]: irene has entered at 7:02 pm  
[plantbrain] 7:03 pm: No, you'd want 3 ballast that each can drive 2x39w T5's  
[FishPassion] 7:03 pm: kk they will be covered an dnot seen so shop lights would be sufficient then thx  
[PineHill] 7:03 pm: How would those 3 ballasts be spread out over the tank?  
[plantbrain] 7:03 pm: As long as the macro algae have enouygh front to back lighting, the shop light ought to be fine. Or a 110w PC light etc  
[OVAS General Chat]: irene has left at 7:04 pm  
[plantbrain] 7:04 pm: The 3 ballast would be for 2x39w banks each  
[plantbrain] 7:04 pm: \_\_\_\_\_ that's one bank and one ballast  
[] 7:04 pm: Tom, OVAS has a plant contest every year... we try to intrduce a new plant to the club and something most people can grow. At the end of the year, people bring in the plant for judging and win a prize. Given that scenario, what plant would you pick to be in it?  
[plantbrain] 7:05 pm: Plant of the month:)  
[plantbrain] 7:05 pm: I like Dwarf hygro personally  
[plantbrain] 7:05 pm: HC  
[plantbrain] 7:05 pm: Most new stem plants  
[plantbrain] 7:06 pm: We did/do this to some extent I suppose in the hobby in general  
[plantbrain] 7:06 pm: But whatever new one comes down the pipe, we get it and try it out  
[charlie] 7:06 pm: Tom , regarding Rotala maccrendra, i`ve read thet some folks limit the Nitrates to encourage the red colour, some say this dark red is actually a deffeincy, what is your take on this  
[plantbrain] 7:07 pm: Then it makes the "rounds"  
[OVAS General Chat]: featherfin has left at 7:07 pm  
[plantbrain] 7:07 pm: I'd say it is certainly a deficiency if you limit something to express a color, red.  
[plantbrain] 7:07 pm: Still, some pefer it regardless  
[OVAS General Chat]: has left at 7:07 pm  
[OVAS General Chat]: schauret has entered at 7:08 pm  
[plantbrain] 7:08 pm: Rotala's are color variable with NO3, but you can still get nice color with higher NO3.  
[OVAS General Chat]: has left at 7:08 pm  
[PineHill] 7:09 pm: If each ballast is 3' long, and I shoul da have 3, with the tank being 6' long, where would the third ballast go?

[plantbrain] 7:09 pm: Steve Dixon, Roger Miller and myself suggested this about 10 years ago.

[charlie] 7:10 pm: in the past i`ve had issues with java fern going black , what is your thoughts on the cause

[PineHill] 7:10 pm: The way i see it is

\_\_\_\_\_ two ballasts, each 3' long containing 2 t5s  
\_\_\_\_\_ tank length, 6'

Im not sure where you are saying the third ballast should go

[OVAS General Chat]: garnpet has entered at 7:12 pm

[plantbrain] 7:12 pm: math:  $2 \times 39w = 2 \times 3ft \text{ bulbs} = 6ft$ .  $6ft \times 3 = 3$  ballast for each slice of the 6ft tank. I think you are over thinking this. 3 ballast, each have/drove  $2 \times 39w$  3ft bulbs. So 6 bulbs total. The front 6ft( $2 \times 39W$ ) come on first, then the middle bank 2 comes on( $4 \times 39w$ ), then the last rear bank comes on ( $6 \times 39W$ )

[plantbrain] 7:12 pm: Black Java= poor CO2

[plantbrain] 7:12 pm: I've seen it many times and done repeat test to induce it

[plantbrain] 7:13 pm: It greens back up nicely after, takes about 3-6 weeks

[plantbrain] 7:13 pm: So be patient

[plantbrain] 7:13 pm: I just had a client run out of CO2(a recurring issue with this one) and they have lots of Java

[OVAS General Chat]: audioslave\_36 has entered at 7:14 pm

[plantbrain] 7:14 pm: New growth starts up after, the client and the test all had the same dosing etc and large water changes weekly etc

[charlie] 7:14 pm: how about the new flourite substrates , any exposure to them & thoughts

[plantbrain] 7:14 pm: I really like the two black sediments.

[plantbrain] 7:15 pm: They have two, the black flourite and a black flourite sand, which is about the same size as Onyx.

[plantbrain] 7:15 pm: They are a nice black color though

[OVAS General Chat]: PrincessFish has entered at 7:15 pm

[sas] 7:15 pm: Thom , what about a brown spot just above the base of a plant.....goes soft but the plant is still viable? Lack of CO2 maybe?

[plantbrain] 7:15 pm: Inert as far as KH, heavy, more so than EC or ADA AS

[sas] 7:15 pm: Sorry on the leaf base

[plantbrain] 7:16 pm: That makes planting easier

[plantbrain] 7:16 pm: leaf loss means the plant gives it up, it's not offering any source of nutrients, sort of "self pruning"

[PineHill] 7:17 pm: Tom each ballast itself is 6' long? containing 2 3' bulbs?

[OVAS General Chat]: darkdep has entered at 7:17 pm

[plantbrain] 7:17 pm: Damage, perhaps light, perhaps CO2 etc, there are few possible reasons, but they are centered around plant growth, so focus on that to reduce/remove the issue.

[OVAS General Chat]: audioslave\_36 has left at 7:17 pm

[plantbrain] 7:18 pm: Yes, ea ballast has 6ft, 2 bulbs that are 3 ft long

[PineHill] 7:18 pm: thats where I pictured it wrong, frig brain fart there, thanks for holding my hand through it though

[sas] 7:18 pm: Thanks

[plantbrain] 7:18 pm: We all have them days:)

[PineHill] 7:18 pm: :red:

[PineHill] 7:19 pm: I saw a weird setup at BA's, so it was engraved in my mind

[plantbrain] 7:19 pm: Tenacity will get your answer though

[plantbrain] 7:19 pm: So do not give up if you fail or cannot understand something

[plantbrain] 7:19 pm: Keep trying

[plantbrain] 7:20 pm: Never give or surrender:)

[plantbrain] 7:20 pm: haha

[sas] 7:20 pm: lol surrender

[plantbrain] 7:20 pm: Many do, but do not blame

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:21 pm: any more questions?

[plantbrain] 7:21 pm: Do you folks use a non CO2 method?

[plantbrain] 7:21 pm: For planted tanks?

[plantbrain] 7:21 pm: I often suggest it

[plantbrain] 7:21 pm: There is a strong CO2 gas bias

[OVAS General Chat]: kennyman has entered at 7:21 pm

[plantbrain] 7:21 pm: Snobbery even

[plantbrain] 7:22 pm: I think it fits well with many aquarists goals however(non CO2 methods)

[plantbrain] 7:22 pm: More so than CO2 in most cases. Strong argument and success rate if you apply it correctly

[Crumpet] 7:23 pm: I am intrigued with this no Co2, do tell!

[charlie] 7:23 pm: Tom please elaborate on the non co2 , a lot of folks will welcome that

[plantbrain] 7:24 pm: The same can be applied to the skimmer techy massive Reef folks. If you do large water changes on marine tanks, the reef tanks do awesome. Folks do all this other stuff to amplify and avoid water changes

[charlie] 7:24 pm: There is a couple of folks that have great success with it on this forum

[OVAS General Chat]: babblefish1960 has entered at 7:24 pm

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:24 pm: there's one now LOL

[plantbrain] 7:24 pm: For non CO2 planted tanks, the generalized goal is to balance the in/outputs with the fish and the plants. The goal is not massive plant growth, dosing all sorts of things, NO WATER CHANGES, testing etc.

[PineHill] 7:25 pm: I am looking to spend about \$200 in the next week on a pressurized CO2 system for my tank, is there a better solution? ie cheaper/hassle-free

[plantbrain] 7:25 pm: Well it really depends on your goal

[charlie] 7:25 pm: Talk about timing Babble

[plantbrain] 7:25 pm: I'm not able to chose this for you, you must do it yourself(CO2 or not to CO2, that is the question!)

[PineHill] 7:26 pm: wouldn't no water changes be unhealthy for the fish? Not if you were dosing the tank right?

[plantbrain] 7:26 pm: I take a different approach

[plantbrain] 7:26 pm: I chose both methods:)

[PineHill] 7:26 pm: lol I want lush green heavy plants

[plantbrain] 7:26 pm: So I do both, they each have their advantages and they are quite different in their overall goals

[plantbrain] 7:27 pm: PH, you likely sound like you are going to be a CO2 person.

[kennyman] 7:27 pm: May I ask a question?

[plantbrain] 7:27 pm: I do not know you enough, but based on the vibe here, yep

[plantbrain] 7:27 pm: Ask away

[PineHill] 7:27 pm: This may be weird to some but my Oscar tank is nicely planted. I was wondering if you could give some basic info on substrate. For example, other than basic black gravel that I used now, could I change to black sand or something that is better for plants?

[kennyman] 7:28 pm: can plants obtain carbon via the roots from the substrate?

[PineHill] 7:28 pm: Yes, you're right, I'm more CO2 lol

[fischkopp] 7:28 pm: lace plants - whats the trick of growing them? The leaves on my tend to become brown very quickly

[plantbrain] 7:30 pm: Black flourite would be nice

[plantbrain] 7:31 pm: Plants do not get much CO2 from the sediment, the CO2 bubbles out into the water column, but generally, not much.

[PineHill] 7:31 pm: I have a pleco, would the pleco and OScars be ok with the flourite and can I still use my gravel vacuum to clean it during Water changes?

[OVAS General Chat]: garnpet has left at 7:31 pm

[plantbrain] 7:32 pm: Some plants, that aquarists rarely keep, a Lobelia in Europe is often suggested, but it's a bad example to try and suggest for all 300 species of aquatics we keep, still, some folks like to make such generalizations based on one plant, or one study that does little comparative research

[plantbrain] 7:33 pm: Lace plants grow very well in moderate low light, good CO2, and temperature seems pretty important to keep them for years and years.

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:33 pm: just going to put kennyman's question forward again too ;)

[kennyman] 7:28 pm: can plants obtain carbon via the roots from the substrate?

[plantbrain] 7:33 pm: I like about 72F for them. They get high and flower etc

[fischkopp] 7:34 pm: thanks, do i have to keep an eye on pH and hardness?

[plantbrain] 7:34 pm: A few plants can do a little CO2 uptake via the roots, but it's not a large factor and even less in our tanks. what does a lot of CO2 from the sediment suggest?

[babblefish1960] 7:34 pm: Have you had much experience with using soil in tanks under the substrate?

[plantbrain] 7:34 pm: Lots and lots of organic matter being oxidized by bacteria and consuming?

[plantbrain] 7:34 pm: Lots of O2

[plantbrain] 7:34 pm: Not good, I want the O2 around for the fish

[plantbrain] 7:35 pm: I have more experience than you may ever know using soil sediments:)

[PineHill] 7:35 pm: how hard would it be to vacuum gravel during a water change with something like peat moss under the substrate?

[plantbrain] 7:35 pm: 980 pots at the lab of delta sediment:)

[plantbrain] 7:36 pm: Not too bad vacuuming, just be careful, most do not deep vac with plants

[plantbrain] 7:36 pm: I don't

[plantbrain] 7:36 pm: I recently did another soil sediment test using milfoil

[babbelfish1960] 7:37 pm: good to know, I have been using soil in my tanks for over 20 years, and have had a myriad of successes and failures, the one part that gets me is having to amend micronutrients occasionally to compensate for not finding these nutrients in the water column when there are some plants that take these things up through the leaves rather than roots

[plantbrain] 7:37 pm: I've also compared several sediments and nutrients with a variety of sediments using aquatic plants as the "ruler"

[plantbrain] 7:37 pm: Yes, sounds about right

[plantbrain] 7:37 pm: I can help you have pretty much 100% success though

[OVAS General Chat]: RoxyDog has left at 7:38 pm

[babbelfish1960] 7:38 pm: do tell about the 100%

[plantbrain] 7:38 pm: Frozen mud cubes is one way

[babbelfish1960] 7:38 pm: how are these added?

[plantbrain] 7:38 pm: You can re-enrich the sediments by taking mud and adding them to frozen ice cube trays and freezing

[plantbrain] 7:38 pm: Add these beneath the plants

[plantbrain] 7:39 pm: They will melt and no mess is added to the water column

[plantbrain] 7:39 pm: Simple, easy and cheap

[plantbrain] 7:39 pm: Most sediment tends to have lots of Fe and other micros

[PrincessFish] 7:39 pm: Hello, I'm new to the hobby and have a 7 month old low-light planted 25g tank with red Flourite. For about 2 months now there is a brown substance over the leaves of plants and the rocks. I change water every 10-14 days, feed not too generously. Also have MTSnails The substance is brown and difficult to rub off. Can you give me some direction about what this is and how I can get rid of this?

[plantbrain] 7:40 pm: They can get used up, you can also add ferts to the water column or the sediment using non CO2 methods.

[plantbrain] 7:40 pm: Or both

[babbelfish1960] 7:40 pm: That sounds easy enough, just can't tell the wife though, she may get snarly about using the dishes that way

[plantbrain] 7:40 pm: It's easy

[plantbrain] 7:40 pm: If you mineralize the soil prior to use, then you have few issues(CO2 or non CO2)

[plantbrain] 7:41 pm: You soak it for shallow water for 2-3 weeks prior to use @ about 1/2 deep in a tray

[plantbrain] 7:41 pm: This helps jump start the  $\text{NH}_4 \Rightarrow \text{NO}_2 \Rightarrow \text{NO}_3$  bacteria and removes  $\text{NH}_4$  which is the main issue with new tanks and algae inducement.

[plantbrain] 7:42 pm: You can also bake for 1 hour at 400F, or boil 10 min and this will thermally oxidize the  $\text{NH}_4 \Rightarrow \text{NO}_3$ .

[plantbrain] 7:42 pm: But you do not get the bacterial part there

[babbelfish1960] 7:42 pm: So this would bypass that phase of inactivity in the plants then?

[plantbrain] 7:43 pm: Well, after mineralizing the sediment, you add it to the tank, then add sand over it, or I often mix the sand and the sediment together in the bottom 2"(1" sand, 1" soil, the cap that with 2" of sand etc

[plantbrain] 7:44 pm: Plants should start growing right away

[kennyman] 7:44 pm: do you enrich the mud or just scoop it up from somewhere?

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:45 pm: [PrincessFish] 7:39 pm: Hello, I'm new to the hobby and have a 7 month old low-light planted 25g tank with red Flourite.

For about 2 months now there is a brown substance over the leaves of plants and the rocks. I change water every 10-14 days, feed not too generously. Also have MTSnails The substance is brown and difficult to rub off. Can you give me some direction about what this is and how I can get rid of this?

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:45 pm: apologies all but I am needed elsewhere, babblefish1960 will be taking over for the remainder of the chat... thank you so much Tom for being our Expert for the evening, it was most enlightening

[] 8:46 pm: I get it from a lake generally with good clay content(red clay sediment works well). I screen it to remove large pieces and let it settle, then remove excess water and allow it to dry out in a thin tray till it's a nice clay playdough consistency

[] 8:46 pm: what about parasites, etc?

[] 8:47 pm: Ther brown algae sounds like diatoms, Otto cats are a good solution, you cAN ALSO TRY ADDING sEAcHEM eXCEL

[] 8:47 pm: Dang cap lock

[] 8:47 pm: Would a blackout work?

[] 8:48 pm: I've never had any parasites of fish diseases in some 30 years of using soil in a wide range of places in the USA

[] 8:48 pm: Blackouts work well on mainly faster growing green algae.

[] 8:48 pm: Thank you - guess I will have to give chemicals a try.

[] 8:48 pm: Add that to daily water changes and Excel dosing and blackout and do this for 3 days, that is highly effective

[] 8:49 pm: Thanks will do :)

[] 8:49 pm: Excel allows most plants to grow very well and adds some carbon for them, so it's not really marketed as an algicide, rather, as a plant supplement

[] 8:49 pm: What is the benefit of using flourite instead of normal gravel?

[] 8:50 pm: And is it necessary to put mud under the plant and flourite?

[] 8:50 pm: Seems, to hold roots better, better colors, these are subtle differences. I used plain sand for many years, it works well aslo.

[] 8:50 pm: No, I'd not put mud under flourite.

[] 8:50 pm: I understand that diatoms come from silica in the tank? What is this and how do we control it?

[] 8:51 pm: Si is not something to control or worry about, Diatoms are not induced by low or high levels in our tanks.

[] 8:51 pm: 5 more min

[] 8:51 pm: Got to eat sometime:)

[] 8:52 pm: is excell the only non co2 alternative?

[] 8:52 pm: So overall changing to flourite wouldn't make that much of a difference in my 125g?

[] 8:52 pm: If you can control the inducement/germination of new algae growth, then you have a good method

[] 8:53 pm: No, Excel is not the only Non CO2 method, it's mor ein line with CO2 methods(water changes, more dosign etc, ), it amplifies growth

[] 8:53 pm: I think the flourite would be a nice addition for the 125 certainly, the black more so.

[] 8:53 pm: Yea black for sure

[] 8:53 pm: Tom thanks so much for taking the time to do this , hope you can visit our beautiful city & club someday.

[] 8:53 pm: what about vacuuming or cleaning flourite during my water changes

[] 8:54 pm: Thanks so much! Enjoy dinner :heart:

[] 8:54 pm: Invite me up for a talk

[] 8:54 pm: I'm in Houston in April

[] 8:54 pm: Execs take note LOL

[] 8:54 pm: FL in Aug

[] 8:55 pm: So I do get around a bit

[] 8:55 pm: :up: sounds like a plan, Stan :)

[babbelfish1960] 8:55 pm: That sounds very good, we will have to keep in touch to encourage some travel to Ottawa for sure.

[sas] 8:55 pm: Thank-you Tom It's been very informative:)

[] 8:55 pm: Sure

[] 8:55 pm: Thank you for coming!

[] 8:55 pm: Please do visit our forum from time to time

[] 8:55 pm: thanx, nice session

[] 8:56 pm: Thank you and take care

[babbelfish1960] 8:56 pm: I want to thank you Tom for coming this far above the Mason Dixon line to chat with us all here. As an Executive with a mission, we shall surely be talking once more about securing you here for a talk in person.

[] 8:56 pm: You can go to my site or link it for the non CO2 method if you want more info, I detail out more of a non Soil approach to it, but they can be combined with good results and reduce the plant- plant species competition for non CO2 methods and allow more species to be kept in such tanks.

[babbelfish1960] 8:56 pm: Thank you everyone for coming and making this an event with your questions

[sas] 8:57 pm: Cheers everybody :) Night !

[] 8:57 pm: Thanks, folks and thanks all for the missed times in the past:) sheepishly, regards, tom