

[STEP5]

What are the key points of Nature Aquarium maintenance?

Daily maintenance practices ultimately decide both the condition of the plants and the aquarium as a whole. Close observation of the condition plants, fish and water clarity becomes essential for maintaining a healthy system. The regular close observation of the aquarium enables you to respond quickly to changes before they become bigger problems.

DAILY Work !



Regular Work !



Supplying Potassium and micronutrients promote healthy aquatic plants

Among the major (or macro) nutrient elements necessary for the growth of aquatic plants, nitrogen and phosphorus are produced by natural processes within the aquarium, while potassium tends to be in short supply. Potassium supplementation with BRIGHTY K is highly effective and also promotes photosynthesis. When no significant algae is present in the aquarium, supplementing micronutrients is also very effective. The original ADA STEP method for micronutrient supply starts with GREEN BRIGHTY STEP 1, and graduates to STEP 2 and STEP 3 over time.



BRIGHTY K
GREEN BRIGHTY STEP 1

Check the water condition and understand the aquarium environment

Watch closely for the appearance of the algae while also observing water clarity and the movement of the fish and shrimps. Analyze the water condition checking for nitrate, nitrite, and CO₂ for the first week or two after set-up. In aquariums with steady plant growth, check pH regularly, and control the CO₂ supply as needed.



PACK CHECKER

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The PACK CHECKER allows you to easily take a sample of aquarium water without ever touching the reagent. It is then easy to simply check the color and get an accurate reading.

Water Change is the basis of maintenance

Performing regular water changes is the most important task in a routine maintenance regimen. For the first 1-2 weeks, 1/2 or more the tank volume water change is necessary. Once the plants start to grow and no major algae is visible, a water change of 1/2 to 1/3 tank volume once per week is recommended.

Chlorine neutralization for tap water

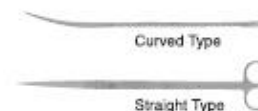
Though BRIGHTY K has both supplements potassium and neutralizes chlorine, CHLOR OFF is suitable should you want to just neutralize chlorine.



CHLOR OFF

Trimming by specialized tool

Use specialized trimming scissors for aquatic plants. A long length and very sharp edge and tip are best as those features will help you make a proper cut more easily and consistently. Curved tip scissors are recommended for trimming small plants on the aquarium bottom.



Curved Type

Straight Type



Before



After



Aquarium tank will be beautiful depend on trimming.

It is time to trim aquatic plants once they reach the surface or when lower plants are simply becoming too thick. Basically, trimming stem plants consists of cutting the top parts and keeping the roots and some parts of the stem. This allows for new growth that is thicker and more lush as one stem may now produce 2 or more new buds. The idea is to create a beautiful thicket.

Also, establish clear lines with your trimming in order to express the ultimate composition clearly. To maintain a beautiful appearance, trim often and before plants are overgrown too much.



Take care of plants after trimming

Trimming weakens and stresses aquatic plants. Adding GREEN GAIN helps promote faster recuperation and regrowth.



GREEN GAIN

Remove algae as soon as possible

2-3 weeks after set-up, brown diatom (powder-like) algae and even thin tangles of algae may appear. First siphon out as much of this algae using a thin hose. Then add around 10 *Caridina japonica* (in a 60cm tank). Later, if other algae appears, the idea is the same: physically remove as much as you can and add algae-eating fish or shrimps to help deal with the rest. If the plants have suffered due to a delayed response, it may be best to cut the weakened or infested part of the plant all together. Algae on the glass in areas where you cannot reach may be removed using the PRO RAZOR.



Otocinclus sp. Crossocheilus siamensis



Just like *Caridina japonica*, *Otocinclus* sp. and *Crossocheilus siamensis* are effective algae eaters. Normally only a few are necessary to remove or control algae. Reduce the population if feeding damage to the plants becomes a problem.



PRO RAZOR