

Aquarium Water Quality & Live Plants

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optimize water quality with live plants

Live plants are attractive additions to an aquarium and have many benefits. They offer herbivorous fish variety in their diet as a natural food source and provide shelter and security for fish, especially timid species. Live plants enhance your aquarium's appearance and provide a much more natural environment for its inhabitants. Above all, live plants optimize aquarium water quality by providing additional biological filtration, which helps maintain fish health.

🔄 How do plants help improve water quality?

During the day, [live plants](#) photosynthesize in order to grow and thrive. During this process, live plants absorb carbon dioxide produced by your fish and release oxygen, which is then used by fish during respiration. Live plants extract such pollutants as organic waste, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and phosphate before they can accumulate and negatively affect water quality. This natural filtration helps restore balance to the aquarium environment by processing excess nutrients. The result is a cleaner, clearer, and healthier aquarium.

Furthermore, live plants can play an important role in managing algae growth. In order to flourish, live plants actively utilize nutrients in aquarium water. These nutrients are the same types that encourage aggressive algae growth. In other words, algae are less likely to thrive in an aquarium where healthy live plants are present.

Live plants are beneficial additions to your freshwater aquarium. They offer an exciting and fulfilling dimension to the aquarium hobby. When properly planned, live plants do not create a great deal of added work to your weekly maintenance routine. When you have a well-planted aquarium, your fish benefit from a healthier environment and you enjoy the rewards of a beautiful aquatic garden.

Q What are some reasons I should choose live plants over artificial plants?

A: Live plants offer a food source and a more natural environment for aquarium fish. Perhaps the most important quality of live plants is that they help optimize aquarium water quality.

TIPS ON SELECTING LIVE PLANTS

🔄 Beneficial Live Plants

Research care requirements - Proper [water parameters](#) and [correct lighting](#) are essential for healthy plant growth. Be sure to always research plant requirements to ensure proper care.

• **Select true aquatic species suitable for your aquarium setup** - There are many ornamental terrestrial or marginal tropical plants sold as aquatic plants. These plants may look good and can do fine completely submerged for a while, but these plants will eventually drown and should not be used. In fact, they may harm your fish more than help them as they decompose and release pollutants.

• **Plant in numbers** - When planting your aquarium, it is best to use a large number of hardy, fast-growing species. This dense planting helps reduce unwanted algae growth. Once your plants are established, you can include more sensitive, or slow-growing plant species.

Plants

Some live plants have added benefits to help optimize aquarium water. [Anacharis](#) helps oxygenate aquarium water while heavy-feeders like [Wisteria](#) are excellent for managing nutrient levels.



Anacharis



Wisteria

RECOMMENED PRODUCTS



[Eco-Complete Plant Substrate](#) contains all the necessary mineral nutrients for luxuriant aquarium plant growth PLUS beneficial bacteria to rapidly convert fish waste into natural food for your aquatic plants.



Our [Freshwater Plant Packs](#) are an ideal way to introduce a variety of healthy live plants to your aquarium environment.



The [Aquarium Plant Pruning Tool](#) has two interchangeable heads to make trimming and cleanup quick and convenient.