

Double Duty

Potting your aquatic plants and providing superior filtration

This method uses a planting media that can be reused year after year, is economical, and contains no organics or other contaminants. Your plants will not need any additional fertilizer.

The filtration is provided using an Anoxic (low oxygen) Biocenosis Basket. This method skips the usual biological filtration of most systems whereby ammonia is converted to nitrite and then to the end product of nitrate. In the Anoxic system, bacteria directly convert ammonia to nitrogen gas, and consume any otherwise existing nitrite and nitrate plus phosphate.

The result is lush, vigorous plant growth and excellent water quality. You should also notice a reduction in algae.

Supplies needed:

- Mesh basket about 12" square and 8' inches high. The basket should have holes on all sides and the bottom. Smaller baskets may be used; larger baskets will work also but will be heavy.
- Four pieces of PVC pipe or unions for legs for the baskets plus four cable ties to attach legs.
- Cat litter made from clay that has been baked, is non-scented and non-clumping. Wal-Mart has Special Kitty Cat Litter that works great. A bag will fill about 1 ½ 12" baskets.
- Ironite 1-0-1 by Pennington, 6 oz in nylon stocking pouch for 12" basket

Attach legs to basket. You need water to flow by all six sides.

Fill basket ½ full with kitty litter, add pouch of Ironite, finish filling with kitty litter.

To prevent fish from disturbing the kitty litter, you may need to place appropriate sized rocks on top of the kitty litter.

Add plant to basket and immerse in pond. - That's it! Simple! Effective!

You may have some cloudiness from the kitty litter that will disperse in a day or two. The Ironite will need to be replaced annually. For adequate filtration more biocenosis baskets will be needed.

For more information on Anoxic Filtration: <http://www.mankysanke.co.uk>

Condensed information: <http://www.iewgks.org>