

### **Advice. Controlling string algae in a waterlily pond with Leopard frogs**

Getting rid of the water lilies would be exactly the WRONG thing to do. You get string algae when too much sun hits the pond and the water gets too warm early in the season. Ideally, ponds should be sited so that one-half to two-thirds of the pond is shaded. If this pond is in full sun, I recommend the owner consider installing a sun shade.

If we have an early, hot spring, I put a sun umbrella right into my small (~650 gallon) pond to provide shade until the trees overhead leaf out. Goldfish or koi also help because they will eat the algae. My fish winter over in the pond thanks to a bubbler that keeps oxygen at an acceptable level, so they are ready to start munching algae as soon as it warms up and the stuff starts to form. (FYI, I think goldfish are better than koi because: they are cheaper to buy and they are omnivorous, meaning they also eat mosquito larvae, while koi are strictly vegetarian and can damage ornamental pond plants if they are hungry. I rarely feed my goldfish. They are working fish and I expect them to find their own food.)

Finally, if all else fails, this person should purchase an algaecide product like Nualgi. Some experts suggest also getting volcanic rocks, soaking them in the algaecide then putting the rocks into the pond. However, I've rarely had to resort to using algaecides. Providing shade is usually sufficient. Hope this helps. MG