



Pond Home Study Course

Lesson 6: Case Studies

Case Study 2: Aquatic Plants and Structural Maintenance

A young couple has just inherited a pond from the woman's father. The pond is about ½ acre in surface area with an average depth of about five feet and a maximum depth of 18 feet. There is no obvious source of water for the pond other than surface water draining from the surrounding farm fields. The couple primarily wants the pond for fishing recreation for their children. The father has told the couple the following about the pond:

- The pond was only built about two years ago but he thought it might have a leak because the water level sometime drops 6 to 12 inches.
- The pond is clear during the fall and winter but turns pea soup green during early summer and then a dark brown during late summer.
- A flock of geese visited the pond late last year and this summer he noticed some duckweed floating on the pond around the edges.

1. What signs could they look for to determine if this pond is actually leaking? What is an alternative explanation for the water level dropping?
2. What is causing the green and then brown color during the summer?
3. Given their desire to have this pond for fishing, should they try to get rid of the green and brown coloration during the summer?
4. The father was going to buy some grass carp and some copper sulfate to kill the duckweed before its covers the pond. What would you suggest?

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