



In still waters, problems with algae result from an imbalance in the aquatic ecosystem. Where there are insufficient waterweeds present, algae are the first to 'grab' nutrients when temperature and light increase in the spring. Rapid growth of algae can quickly shade or smother waterweeds, making algae the dominant recyclers of nutrients. If this annual cycle can be broken, waterweeds can re-establish a long-lasting balance.

The use of decomposing barley straw is a scientifically proven technique to control aquatic algae. When breaking down *in the presence of sufficient oxygen*, barley straw yields by-products that block the growth of *green-water*, *blue-green* and *filamentous* ("blanket weed") algae.

However, this approach has several drawbacks, including:

- X Using crude barley straw is inconvenient. It must be handled, put loosely into net bags, made to float (eg with plastic drums) and then distributed around the water to be treated. These nets are unsightly, and prone to snagging by anglers, for example.
- X To be effective, the barley straw must break down under the right, oxygen-rich conditions. If these conditions are not present, the barley straw may just add more nutrients to the water, and so **feed** the algae !
- X It usually takes many weeks for decomposition to begin yielding anti-algae compounds.
- X The potential capacity for yielding anti-algae compounds can vary greatly between batches of straw.

excalibar is -

- an established, environment-friendly extract of barley straw preparation to fight and control algae*.
- an HSE-registered algicide (approval number 9237). It comes as an easily-applied solution, and is harmless to fish and other animals.
- produced under carefully controlled conditions, and is batch-tested to MAINTAIN CONSISTENT CONCENTRATIONS OF ANTI-ALGAE COMPOUNDS.
- 100% active from the moment it is poured into the water, and blocks further growth of the algae present*.

Note that since it was first produced in 2000, the concentration of active ingredients has DOUBLED.

Because it does not directly kill the algae, **excalibar** should ideally be used as a preventive tool, and added in the spring, before the algae begin to grow strongly. It can still be used under algal bloom conditions, but may take some weeks to bring the bloom under control, as the algal cells expire. Suspended algae (green and blue-green species) succumb to **excalibar** more quickly than filamentous types.

* Some species of algae, for example some *diatoms* (which are brown in colour) are unaffected by compounds from decomposed barley straw. Suspended solids could also reduce the effectiveness of **excalibar**. However, our **Water Testing Service** can resolve any uncertainty about water quality prior to treatment. We offer a range of tests, from simple identification of species, through to determining an effective dose of **excalibar** for your water type.

excalibar complements a wide range of other **Pond Healer Remedies** and water management products, such as aeration equipment. Our approach to pond and lake management is to consider and treat the symptoms of the problems. However, we also like to *consider and treat the causes*, and aim to create an ecological balance, if possible. If you are uncertain about the water quality problems in your lake, we offer a site visit service. We inspect, assess, take and analyse samples and produce a report. This includes a suggested programme of management and remedies.

See some of the original testimonials overleaf

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TESTIMONIALS – *excalibar*

Please note that these testimonials were taken from our broad base of satisfied customers **after** the freak hot weather and drought conditions of 2003. These conditions were ideal for the proliferation of algae. In untreated still waters, this resulted in blooms of filamentous, blue-green and green water algae. This made the water at least inconvenient and unsightly. They even resulted in the water becoming toxic or deprived of oxygen, thus killing all the fish and other aquatic life.

- * Thursland Hill Farm - Mrs Bannister. Used 4 years running (2 by the present owner, Mrs Bannister). "***excalibar*** is fantastic, and gives us absolutely superb water quality – gin-clear. The nice thing is that we don't have to use bales of straw. Other local fishery managers tell us that anglers complain when they catch their hooks in them ! I start treatment before the algae gets going in mid-February, and it only takes me 10 – 15 minutes once a week to treat our two lakes, one of about 1 acre, the other about 1/3 of an acre"
- * Thanet District Council. A spokesperson: "We have used it very successfully in 3 different town centre water features to control nuisance blanket weed. We will be using it again this year"
- * Oddfellows Angling Club. One of our first customers, Oddfellows AC will be using ***excalibar*** for the fourth year running in 2004. Their fishing lake used to be subject to masses of filamentous algae. Mr Lawson says of ***excalibar***, "It has been a great success. The lake used to be virtually unfishable when the algae was at a peak until we started using ***excalibar***. Now, there is a patch of 2 or 3 square yards on 7 acres ! Absolutely tremendous! Even last year, with the exceptional weather, it was a complete success".
- * Sue Cooke and Associates, garden design and land management. The ornamental pond treated is just under 1 acre. Crude barley straw was tried, but it didn't work very well. "We have found ***excalibar*** extremely helpful, and we are very pleased with it. There is a water garden supplied with water that flows from the lake, and we have found much less algae build up on the waterfalls and water features. We spend much less time scraping algae off, and we have no problems with pumps blocking with algae. Your idea of using a kid's drencher water pistol to spread it is good fun, too !"
- * Gilcruix Springs Trout Farm Water flows from the trout farm into a sport trout fishery of approximately 0.7 acres. As a consequence the water is very eutrophic (rich in plant nutrients). Mr Pyke's verdict: "Excellent ! Before we started to use ***excalibar***, the pond bottom used to lift every April to May (a layer of filamentous algae- blanket weed- would rise to the surface, pulled up by bubbles of oxygen). This has not happened since we have started using it. We are delighted !"