

# starting a new tank

3 Steps to happier fish and healthier plants

# 1

## 2-4 WEEK DARK START

Cultivating a healthy colony of beneficial bacteria in submerged aquatic conditions reduces new-tank algae problems and plant-melt.



- Add APT START, place substrate + hardscape and fill tank with water.
- Run filter without lights and CO2 for 2 to 4 weeks before planting.
- Water change is optional during this period.
- Add fish only 2+ weeks after planting.

# 2

## TEST BEFORE PLANTING

To further speed up the cycling process, use seasoned filter media and add mulm from the substrate of a previous tank. After 2-4 weeks of cycling, and just before planting:



- Perform a large (80%-90%) water change.
- Detritus should clump easily and water should be visually clear.
- Perform tests for Ammonia the next day.
- If readings are zero, Ammonia cycling is complete, and you can plant.

# 3

## START STRONG

Even with sufficient cycling and zero Ammonia readings, weak plants may melt and algae may still occur. These actions will help:



- Introduce hardy plants first and plant densely from the start. Cover 70% of the substrate with plants.
- For the first week, perform a 70% water change daily.
- Observe new leaves. If they are algae-free, you are on the right track. Trim and replant healthy tops. Do not simply prune.
- Use APT 1 / Zero for the first 1-2 months.

## DEDICATED TO YOUR SUCCESS

Check out this page for more details.



THE 2HR AQUARIST