

# Efficient POND Management

A division of Rooted in Iowa, LLC

This is a beach area on a 40 year old lake that continually had excessive aquatic plant growth year after year. When the bottom was surveyed, a 6-8 inch layer of organic muck could be found spread across the entire bottom. In 2011, we used the Orb-3 Sludge Pellets applied according to the label for a spot treatment for a growing season. The dock was used as a dividing line with the beach side being treated and the adjacent side serving as the control. The pellets contain specialized bacteria strains and are fortified with trace minerals and an organic catalyst to increase productivity. These pellets sink to the bottom to keep the bacteria in close contact with the target area maximizing the effect.



The decrease in the amount of organic muck was immediate as the initial heavy application of pellets chewed through the nutrients. The muck levels continued to diminish through the summer as it fell from the original 8 inches down to less than 1 inch of detectable muck. The muck levels in the control area never wavered. Plant growth could not be compared in 2011 as a whole lake chemical application aimed at the fanwort knocked down all aquatic plants.

In 2012, the control and treated areas were evaluated and compared. Photos on the following page tell most of the story. The bottom composition remains firm and muck free on the beach side while the control area still contains the 8 inches of highly organic muck. While aquatic plant growth is rampant on the control side, the beach area is all but clear. The only area of rooted plant growth on the beach side is a small area near the control area under the dock's catwalk. The homeowners has removed some of the growth in this small area which is 90% less than the area than was once harvested to control the plant growth on the beach. The required management of this area has been all but eliminated.

Photos of the control area are on the left and treated area on the right. The difference in just one season of treatment is dramatic. The work required by the homeowner went from hours of back breaking work removing plant material to a few minutes skimming off the little growth remaining. Which side would you prefer to swim and float?

