Quick Reference Guide
Algae Mitigation

As you get growing in your **Les Verts Terrace™** or **Terrace Pro** indoor garden system, you may notice algae forming on your grow media. This is completely normal and harmless from a food safety perspective, but you may wish to reduce algae growth for cosmetic purposes.

Algae are small photosynthetic organisms that live in moist or aquatic environments. Algae can flourish in any area that has sufficient water, nutrients and light, which is why they are common in hydroponic growing systems.

Given the right conditions, it might only take a few days for algae to develop in a hydroponics system. While you may not be able to completely eliminate algae growth within your system, here are some tips to help you mitigate it.

1. **Use clean, potable water.** Municipal water is routinely treated to control algae and other microorganisms. Starting with clean water will help reduce the speed at which algae can enter your system.
2. **Ensure your grow shelves are draining properly.** An easy spot for algae to grow in your system is near the drain. This spot can be warm and full of nutrients and light. We have designed our systems to fully drain and stay dry in between watering cycles but sometimes plant debris can get in the way. If you notice your system is not fully draining or one corner of a shelf is not drying between watering, make sure to check your drain fitting and wipe away any debris or plant material that may be blocking the drainage holes. Be sure that your system is level and that the shelves slope very slightly to the rear.
3. **Circulate your nutrient solution and top up with fresh water when required.** Algae thrives in stagnant water, so make sure your pump is running properly and circulating the water through the system. Be sure to check and top up the water and nutrients in your system every 7 to 10 days to help circulate new water into your system.

Continue on next page

LES VERTS LIVING™

PLANT • NOURISH • THRIVE



V1 © 2024 Les Verts Living Inc.

Quick Reference Guide
Algae Mitigation

5. **Do not overwater.** We recommend a maximum of two waterings (10-15 minutes) per day. This frequency ensures that the plants are able to thrive but will allow the surface of the shelves and large grow media to dry.
6. **Do not saturate the larger Grow Blocks.** Do not fully submerge the larger Grow Blocks before transplanting and avoid getting water on the top of the block. Soak only the bottom 1 cm of the Grow Block for 5-10 minutes before transplanting the Mini Block into it.
7. **Allow space between plants.** If your plants are too tightly spaced, humidity rises and can cause increased algae growth. Leaving more space between plants creates more room for air movement, reducing humidity and making it harder for algae to grow.
8. **Add oxygen to your reservoir.** Adding oxygenated water, specifically hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), to your hydroponic system can effectively prevent and control algae growth. It is commonly used among new and expert growers. We recommend adding a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution (found at your local pharmacy), diluted at a rate of 1 teaspoon per 5 litres of water, which releases oxygen and kills algae without harming your plants.
9. **Add a UV light to your nutrient reservoir.** Adding a UV filtration device (such as a UV-C light used in aquariums) to your nutrient reservoir can help mitigate algae growth in your nutrient solution. Note that the UV light will not affect algae growth that is already on the surfaces of grow media and shelves. UV systems should be handled with care and installed in accordance with manufacturer guidelines.
10. **Block light from hitting unwanted surfaces.** Block covers can be used to cover the top of the Grow Blocks. Limiting the light reaching the surface of the grow media may reduce algae growth on those surfaces. Block covers can be found online at hydroponic shopping sites.
11. **Regularly clean your system.** We recommend a thorough system cleaning about every 4 months, but more frequent cleanings can mitigate algae growth further. Refer to your How-to Guide for full cleaning instructions. To do a partial cleaning, remove your plants from the grow shelves and wipe the shelves down with a damp cloth. Spray a diluted rate of cleaning vinegar (1 part household vinegar to 20 parts water) or household hydrogen peroxide (diluted to 1 teaspoon per 5 litres of water) onto growing surfaces to help reduce visible algae. Do NOT apply either of these products directly onto planted Grow Blocks.

If you have any questions, please contact us at GrowHow@lesverts.com.

V1 © 2024 Les Verts Living Inc.