

FILAMENTOUS ALGAE

Filamentous algae are algal mats, moss, or scum. They form long chains of cells that look like filaments.



More information about [algae](#) and [herbicides/algaecides](#). To see which chemical products are approved for use in New Mexico ponds, contact the [New Mexico Department of Agriculture](#)



PREVENTATIVE MEASURES



An overabundance of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, can cause algal blooms.

Apply a dye to the water early in the season to block sunlight from helping the algae grow.

Use buffer strips between water and adjacent disturbed areas to intercept and retain nutrients.

Ponds should be at least 3 feet deep to reduce the growth of bottom algae.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES



Algae is less likely to become a problem in ponds with inlets and outlets.

Algae can be removed and reused as compost or garden mulch.

Adding aeration such as bubblers and fountains can help reduce algal blooms.

CONTROL MEASURES



Treat < 25% of the pond at one time with herbicides or algaecides, giving time in between applications.

Copper-based algaecides are toxic to some fish species.

Use herbicides or algaecides sparingly as a short term control.



HERBICIDES & ALGAECIDES

- Diquat dibromide (contact herbicide) is effective for some species and should not be used in muddy waters as it binds to the clay and becomes ineffective.
- Hydrothol 191 (granular herbicide) is highly toxic to fish and irritating to the skin and eyes of humans.
- Flumioxazin (aquatic herbicide) is slightly to moderately toxic to fish and is registered to control algae and several aquatic weeds.
- Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate is a fast acting algaecide.
- Copper sulfate should be avoided as an algaecide in the summer months.