

# starter tank?

5 Steps for happier fish & healthier plants

# 1

## 70% COMBAT PLANTS

If you plan to have a lively fish population, go for these 5 families of plants: Water Sprite, Red Lotus, Tape Grass, Amazon Swords and Dwarf Sag. Avoid less hardy slow growers like Java Fern and Anubias, as they are far more susceptible to algae in tanks with more fish. Cover 70% of the tank's substrate with plants (instead of the common 20%) This improves your algae resistance tremendously.

# 2

## EXTERNAL CANISTER FILTER

80% of small tanks come with simple hang-on-back filters, which are cheap but sorely lack the bio-filtration capacity needed to keep algae at bay. Invest in an external canister filter- it makes a world of difference to both plant and fish well-being. Check out the [6 features](#) of a good filter.

# 3

## SOIL

Most small tanks come with sand or pebbles. If you intend to keep plants, aquasoil (raw soil compressed into granules) makes a tremendous difference. Avoid enriched synthetic 'soil' that are actually made out of sand/gravel/clay/silica: they are widely marketed, but perform far less well.

# 4

## ALL-ROUND NUTRITION

Healthy plants keep algae at bay naturally and help absorb livestock waste effectively. Our [APT fertilisers](#) were designed to save cost while being uniquely comprehensive and straightforward. You don't need multiple fancy additives. Just 1 bottle covers 100% of your plant nutritional needs.

# 5

## WHAT ELSE?

- Cycling your tank (letting the filter run, without lights, for at least 2 weeks) before adding fish is the #1 defence against most 'new tank' algae problems. Starter bacteria culture helps.
- If you bought a 'tank set', check that your light is sufficiently strong to grow plants. Many are not.
- Regular [Water Change The 2Hr Way](#) (30%-50%) is the best 'exercise'. Do so at least once every week, and more frequently at the start.

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## DEDICATED TO YOUR SUCCESS

Check out [this page](#) for more details.



THE 2HR AQUARIST