

# **Barley Straw Instructions**

## **(Part Nos. BST5–BST11)**



### ***How Barley Straw Works***

Research suggests that barley straw is highly effective in the control of algae. It's an organic approach to algae control! It takes six to eight weeks for barley straw to become effective after it is placed in moving water. After that, barley straw will remain an active algacide for approximately 6 months. Microbial growth, oxygen and warm water temperatures activate the decomposition of the straw. With sufficient water flow through the straw, lignins oxidize into humic acids and, with sunlight and oxygen, destroy algae with no effect on higher plant and aquatic life.

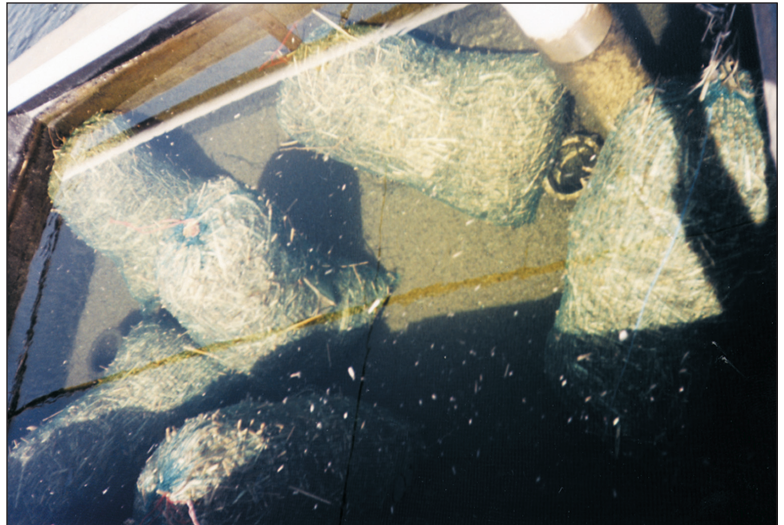
Barley straw decomposes slowly, so its oxygen demand does not cause problems unless an excessive amount (100 g/m<sup>2</sup>) is used. Stagnant water will go anaerobic inside the straw bundle, killing the microbes.

### ***How Much Barley Straw Do I Use?***

Barley straw is most effective in shallow (1 m) water with sunlight and good circulation. Clear water needs less straw, but with turbid, muddy water and less sunlight, more straw is required. Low temperatures are less effective.

Water surface area is used to calculate dosage. In still water ponds, the minimum quantity of straw needed to control algae is 2.5 grams of straw per square meter of water surface. In water with a severe algae problem, high first treatments up to 50 g/m<sup>2</sup> may be required. Start with small quantities and monitor effects. Barley straw may be prestarted in areas where good, oxygenated water flows.

Tie the straw in small bundles, make flat sheaves or stuff it into net bags. Weight or stake them to the bottom in an area with water movement.



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