



Pets West & Desert Pet

Your Neighborhood Pet Stores

Open 7 Days A Week

Weekly Tip #1

Algae in an aquarium is a big problem. There are several things you can do to help combat algae. Today, I'd like to talk about a natural solution in freshwater aquariums. There are several great algae eaters that will chow down on that green and brown crud growing on your glass. The most common is just referred to as a pleco or algae eater and is actually called *Liposarcus anisitsi* or *Hypostomus punctatus*. These are great little lawnmowers, but they get really big. I've seen them easily over a foot long. Of course tank size becomes a problem for most of us when they get that big. Also, when they get that big they become lazy. They are the most common, but not always the best choice. One really cool algae eater is the bristlenose. These little fish stay small, only 4-6 inches and do a great job with both green and brown algae. We typically carry the *Ancistrus sp. temmencki*, or the albino bristlenose. These little suckers are a great addition to any tank. They do a great job cleaning and look very interesting. They are generally peaceful, you can keep more than one, and they do just fine in out kind of water. Otocinclus are another small algae eater. I also recommend these for almost all tanks.

Keep in mind, you might be looking at blue-green algae, which is actually a cyanobacteria. Typically caused by high nitrates or high phosphates, that's another week's tip!

And we would love to help you with this or any other solutions. If there is anything we can help you with please drop by the store!

Bill