REMOVING GREEN SCUM (ALGAE) FROM TANKS AND RESERVOIRS WITH BLUESTONE

by

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Where water in stock troughs, reservoirs, or ponds is exposed to sunlight, it may become covered with a green scum or slime. The best cure for this trouble, in the case of troughs or small reservoirs, is to put a cover or roof over the water to keep out sunlight.

Green scum may be killed with bluestone (copper sulphate). After water treated bluestone has been used up, the scum may grow again from new seed falling in fresh water containing no bluestone. If this occurs, the treatment must be repeated. Since too much bluestone is injurious to livestock, humans, or fish, care should be taken to add only the proper amount of bluestone to the water.

Safe dosage is 8 pounds of bluestone per million gallons; one ounce per 8,000 gallons; or one level teaspoonful per 1500 gallons of water.

To apply bluestone, dissolve the proper amount in a few gallons of water in a wooden, stoneware, or enamel ware container. Then slowly stir the solution into the water to be treated. Treated water should be splashed on the trough walls to kill the scum there.

In small tanks, the scum may be prevented from re-forming by putting pieces of copper sheets or shavings in the water. This is best done by nailing the copper sheet on wooden posts set in the tank.

The copper will be effective a long time unless covered with dirt and slime.

In treating ponds, the bluestone may be put in a sack and dragged through the water from a boat until all is dissolved.

Concentrations as high as 6 pounds of bluestone per acre-foot of water, or 20 pounds per million gallons, have been used in ponds with no harmful effects. In treating a pond having skin fish in it, it is well to treat one end of the pond at a time so as to give the fish an opportunity to move away from the highly concentrated solution near the boat. Scale fish are less sensitive to bluestone.