

PLANTED AQUARIUMS

THE BASICS OF PLANTED & HOW TO SET ONE UP.



**YOUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SETTING
UP YOUR PLANTED AQUARIUM**

STARTING

Create a list of things you need:

- Light tubes (specific plant tubes)
- Substrate fertiliser
- Liquid fertiliser
- Enough gravel to give you a 7 to 10cm layer
- Pick out your driftwood & rocks
- Make a list of the plants so you already know what you want
- Do a rough drawing of the lay out of your aquarium & where you want the plants, rocks, driftwood and ornaments to be. Just a rough drawing, nothing more.

Step 1.

In my case, I decided to set up a 50cm cube with a backing, retaining walls & hidden pipe work.

- Prepping your aquariums to set up.
- Clean out aquarium so you are starting from scratch.



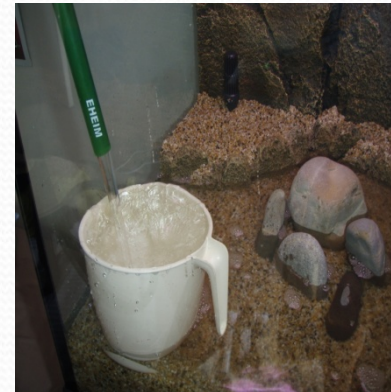
STEP 2.

- Lay plant sand layer and gravel over the plant sand



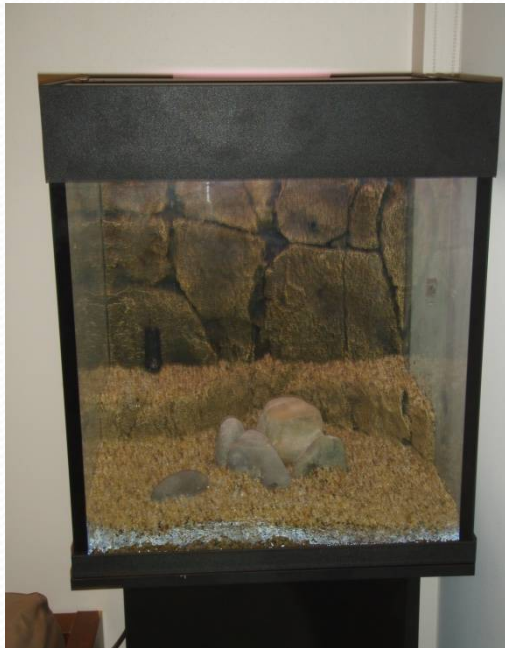
STEP 3.

- Fill your aquarium half-way with water, & make sure that you fill slowly so that you DO NOT disturb the gravel and sand layer
- Fill in to a heavy bowl



Step 4.

Place your wood &/or rocks.



Step 5.

Planting your plants

It is best to layer your plants starting with taller plants at the back, working your way forward to your smaller foreground plants. Once you finished planting all your plants, fill your aquarium up.



From here, let the aquarium sit for one week. Ensure you adjust the Ph level to suit your fish. Make sure your Ph remains steady without large changes.



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Now for your fish!

So what fish do you start with?

You want to give your aquarium the best chance to be algae free, so here are a few tank mates to choose from:

Ottocinclus

Great little fish as they love the worst kind of algae (Beard Algae) They need nothing just leave them to it!

Real Siamese flying fox

Similar to the Ottocinclus, these great little fish also love the worst kind of algae (Beard Algae), however they do grow larger up to 15cm.

Algae shrimp

These little guys are great because they do a great job at eating algae and leftover food. The only down side is that they can only be housed with other small non-aggressive fish, and they also make a nice snack for larger fish.

Bristlenose Catfish

These are large growing fish so you have to make sure they have enough food so they don't turn on your plants.

Once you have chosen which algae eaters you want to go with, go get them,. Make sure you ask one of the team for an appropriate amount and combination of fish. So now you have your fish, add them and leave your planted tank and algae cleaners at it for two weeks (YES TWO WEEKS).



Two weeks have passed...

So now your two weeks is up & you're eager to put fish in, but you don't want to pack them in too quick. Remember you want fish that will not disturb or eat your plants. If you need help choosing your fish, pop in and ask one of our team members.

Planted Aquariums explained.

Lighting:

Lighting in a planted tank is a major part because you need to stimulate photosynthesis (energy production which equals growth.) In order to achieve this you need to have a combination of pink and white light.

Gravel and substrate

Using a finer gravel helps trap nutrients which gives the plants a chance to feed. So fine gravel & plant substrate gives the plants the best chance to get all the nutrients they need for optimum to feed and grow properly

Water circulation

Water circulation is still very important as it helps keep the aquarium clean. You must keep low surface movement as it stops carbon dioxide from being stripped from your tank, subsequently allowing your plants to produce energy and grow.

Fish

Make sure all your fish are plant friendly, also keep algae eaters as they minimise algae growth on plants. You need to remember that algae has an advantage over plants as they have less light & nutrient requirements, making it easier to grow & thrive.

Plants

When selecting your plants you need to choose plants according to how much you want to maintain them.

fertilising

A combination of fertilisers is best. Start with your plant substrate and a liquid fertiliser. You can also use root tabs to help establish a good healthy root system. Then you have iron fertiliser which supports any plant with reds in them. Carbon dioxide injection is the next thing you are best to talk to one of our team members about, as it goes beyond a simple plant tank.