



In short

- Green "pea soup" water and string algae are two different organisms with two different fixes. A UV clarifier handles the first and does essentially nothing for the second.
- Blooms are fed by nutrients (nitrate and phosphate from feeding and waste), strong light, and a filter that is either immature or overloaded.
- Green water is usually not directly toxic. The danger is the swing: oxygen and pH climb through the day and fall through the night, bottoming out just before dawn.
- Clear a heavy bloom too suddenly and the decomposing algae can pull the oxygen down with it. Gradual is safer than dramatic.

QUESTION	GREEN WATER (SUSPENDED)	STRING ALGAE / BLANKETWEED (ATTACHED)
What you see	The whole pond is tinted; you lose sight of fish at depth	Water may be clear; hair, mats or ropes on rocks and falls
Where it lives	Free-floating in the water column	Anchored to hard surfaces and plant stems
Does a UV clarifier touch it	Yes, this is exactly what UV is for	No, essentially nothing
What actually works	Nutrient control, shade, mature filtration, UV	Physical removal, nutrient control, competition from plants
Risk to fish	Indirect, through daily oxygen and pH swings	Mostly nuisance; heavy mats can trap debris and block flow

If you have a heavy green bloom and low total alkalinity at the same time, treat it as urgent rather than cosmetic. Fix the buffer first. A pond in that state can hold a comfortable pH all afternoon and reach both its lowest pH and its lowest dissolved oxygen in the same hour before dawn, which is when losses actually happen.

What H2Koi does and does not do here. The sonde measures turbidity directly, along with temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen in both mg/L and percent saturation, conductivity, ammonium (NH₄) and nitrate (NO₃). ORP is available as an option, as is a blue-green algae channel that reads phycocyanin fluorescence — the pigment specific to cyanobacteria — which is what lets it separate a blue-green bloom from stirred-up silt. That channel reports a trend, not a cell count, and it does not measure toxins. The sonde derives KH, NH₃, nitrite, salinity, TDS. General hardness (GH) is not reported at all. A self-cleaning wiper keeps the optical sensors clear, which matters in a blooming pond, because algae films on an optical window are exactly what makes turbidity and oxygen readings drift. For this topic the useful part is not the clarity number by itself. It is that the same instrument records the oxygen and pH swings the bloom produces, overnight and through dawn, so you can see the magnitude of the swing rather than infer it. What it does not do: turbidity alone cannot separate suspended algae from stirred-up silt, it cannot see string algae on your rocks at all, and it does not identify species. It is continuous early warning from industrial-grade sensors, and not a substitute for looking at your pond.