

# BEGINNER SERIES PLANTS



If you're interested in keeping a fully planted tank, here are some great tips and products that I recommend to get you started. Each of these products should allow a seamless and enjoyable experience to make owning a planted tank easy.

All mentioned products are available at Aquarium Spare Parts. For more informative guides see Blake's Aquatics on YouTube.



**Aquatic plants** have specialised roots for taking in oxygen, and tend to be light and feathery.

## 1 Lighting

Lighting is the most important feature of a planted tank. There are two main aspects of light to consider; the **temperature** and the **intensity**. Intensity is measured in PAR, which means how much light is being distributed to certain areas. This comes in part from how powerful the light is. The Fluval Plant 3.0 LED is a great way to hit all those areas as it is easy to use, fully adjustable and comes with an inbuilt **timer** so you can ensure the light you are giving is the same every day.

**Product Spotlight:**  
Fluval Plant 3.0 Spectrum LED



## 2 Stratum

Plants grow best in **acidic** pH water between 6.0 and 7.0. If your water is naturally higher than this, planted tank **substrate** such as Fluval Stratum can be helpful to buffer the tanks **pH** down to an appropriate level.

**Product Spotlight:**  
Fluval Plant & Shrimm Stratum



## 3 Start slow!

Take things slow and start with a 'less is more' approach to fertiliser and light. This gives **algae** less time to grow, which makes it easier to handle and take care of.

Another thing to be mindful of are **rhizome plants**, which have a firm root that should not be placed in substrate. These plants are typically caught between rocks and driftwood in **natural environments** and have adapted to not need to be planted into anything. Examples are Java Fern, anubias and bucephalandra.

### Ask Blake!

Need some extra advice or help?

Send in your fishy questions directly to [askblake@aquariumspareparts.com.au](mailto:askblake@aquariumspareparts.com.au)

## ? Keep trying!

Growing plants is a balance between providing light and providing nutrients. An imbalance of these properties will result in **poor plant growth** or **excessive algae**. Experiment with stronger lights, a longer light cycle, more fertiliser or more frequent water changes to boost your planted tank. Also consider the type of fish you want to keep. Some fish, such as goldfish and silver dollars, are known to destroy and eat live plants.

## 4 The Big 3

Plants use 3 basic things to grow. The biggest is **carbon**, which can be increased in an aquarium by injecting CO2. The last two are **macronutrients** and **micronutrients**. Macros are referred to as NPKs (nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium) and micros are everything else such as iron and zinc. These are added using liquid fertilisers and root

**Product Spotlight:**  
Seachem Flourish, Potassium, Phosphorous, Root Tabs

**Product Spotlight:**  
Fluval Pressurized CO2 Kit 95gm

