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Bottom Barriers for Lakes and Ponds: Sources of Supply

By Tadd M. Barrow, Water Resource Specialist, and John C. Holz, Research Assistant Professor

Bottom barriers are sheets of synthetic or natural material anchored to the bottom of the lake to obstruct sunlight, which controls the growth of aquatic plants. There is a variety of "bottom barriers" or "screen" products available that aim to suppress aquatic plant growth by reducing or blocking light. Burlap is inexpensive and porous, but it is a natural fiber that decomposes and may lose its effectiveness within two years. Geotextile fabric products are superior to burlap or plastic sheet liners as they are rot-, tear-, and puncture-resistant, permeable enough to allow gas evacuation, and have a density greater than water. NebGuide G03-1529 has additional information on these materials and their proper use. Because users often have difficulty locating suppliers, below is a current list of suppliers that carry bottom barrier products.

Current Distributors of Bottom Barrier Geotextile Fabrics

NYP Corporation
805 East Grand St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Phone: (800) 524-1052
FAX: (908) 351-0108
(Ask for a product called TAC-150)
http://www.nyp-corp.com

Aquatic Control Technology Corp.
11 John Road
Sutton, MA 01590
Phone: (508) 865-1000
FAX: (508) 865-1220
http://aquaticcontrol.com

Current Distributors of Burlap

Menards — Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Nebraska City, Norfolk, Omaha

Most local garden centers carry burlap in varying sizes.

Earl May Nursery & Garden Center — Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Nebraska City, North Platte, Omaha, McCook, York.

Campbell's Nurseries & Garden Centers Inc.
7000 S. 56th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone: (402) 423-1133

Mulhall's
3615 N. 120th St.
Omaha, NE 68164
Phone: (402) 496-0700

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