

# Algae

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your cultures arrive, open the shipping container, remove the tubes or jars, and inspect your algae. Once you have verified that the shipment is OK, loosen the lids on the cultures. These organisms need light but not heat. For classroom use, keep at normal room temperature (22° C/71° F). Indirect natural light is good, but not direct sunlight. Fluorescent light, either cool white or full spectrum, is also sufficient. Avoid incandescent lamps, as they can overheat the water and kill your algae. Plan to use your algae as soon after receipt as possible.

### FAQ's

*How long can I keep my algae cultures before using them?*

The algae are in prime condition when you receive them. The sooner you use them, the better. At most, plan to keep algae cultures no longer than 2 to 3 days before using them.

*Will the algae last longer if I place the cultures in a refrigerator?*

We don't recommend refrigeration or rapid temperature changes.

*My cultures arrived Friday and I need them for class Monday. Will they be OK?*

Remove the cultures from their shipping container and care for them as directed above. The worst thing to do is leave them in the unopened shipping container.

*How can I culture my algae?*

Different algae require different methods. Our *Alga-Gro*® medium, available in both freshwater and seawater versions, is good for culturing most algae. See our Carolina™ *Culturing Algae* manual (item #151210) for detailed instructions.

*Can I use tap water with my algae cultures?*

No. Tap water may contain metal ions that are detrimental to algal growth. Use aged spring or pond water or natural seawater. See our Carolina™ *Culturing Algae* manual (item #151210) for details.

*Which algae do you recommend for classroom use?*

That depends on your instructional needs. AP® Biology Lab 12 uses *Chlorella* as an aquatic producer. Use *Chlorella* as a starter for a green water culture to feed *Daphnia* and other small aquatic organisms. If you would like your students to see a variety of algal types, consider the High School Algae Set (item #151507). The Algae Survey Mixture (item #151216) will give your students experience using a dichotomous key. There are also mating kits for life-cycle studies (item #151610, #151635, and #151670).

*What is the difference between item #152069 Chlorella and #152070 Chlorella?*

They are the same algae. Item #152069 is growing in liquid and is recommended for classroom use. Item #152070 is growing on agar and is bacteria-free. We recommend bacteria-free agar cultures for long-term maintenance of algae.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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