

Aquascaping

Planting Techniques



Goals of this Presentation

- Walk thru process of planting a hardscape
- Provide tips
- Briefly talk about auto-dosing fertilizers
- Questions

Preparation!

- Grow out or buy lots of plants in advance.
- Decide on 4-5 key species. Plan on planting densely.
- Organize in trays, cover in wet newspaper.



Foreground Planting

- Fill tank with about an inch of water.
- Begin planting foreground. Tweezers are essential!
 - Plant individual nodes.
 - Plant 1x1 inch apart or closer.



Covered Foreground Stones

- *Riccia*, *Pellia*, *Susswassertang*, and moss can be used as foreground plants when attached to many stones.



Mid-ground Preparation

- Wrap moss on rocks or wood
- Tie Anubias/Ferns to rocks
 - Trim roots
- Moisten plants with spray bottle



Aquascape: Plant Mid-ground

- Plant midground plants: *Anubias*, *Cryptocorynes*, *Blyxa japonica*, *Java Fern*, etc



Repeat!

- Repeat groupings, varying in size, throughout
- Intermingle species



Photo by Amano

Plant Size & Direction

- Larger leaves up front, smaller in back
- Point *Anubias* to grow where you want them to.



Aquascape: Plant Background

- Plant background plants: Stems, Val, Blyxa aubertii, Crypt. balansae, etc...



Splash of Color

- Use red plants sparingly, but effectively
- Alternatively, use hardscape to contrast greens



Aquascape: Fill it Up, Let Grow

- Fill slowly. Use rock/dish to prevent disturbance.
- 5 Months Later... Won 3rd Place in category, 6th overall in 2009 AAC-Acuavida Contest.



Questions?

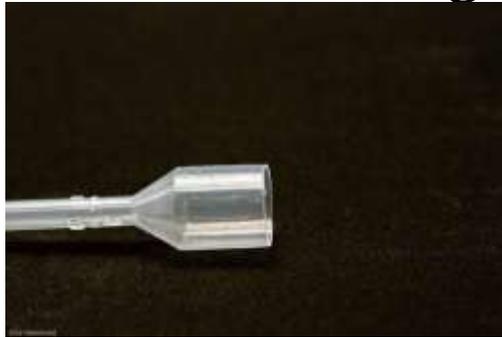
Bonus! Auto-dosing!



- Avoid hassle of daily dosing
- Consistent
- Precise, daily doses
- Great for traveling

Materials Needed

- Container, taller is better
- Mini-jet 404/606, or equivalent
- Digital wall Timer, minute based
- Syringe/pipette, or other connector
- Airline tubing & Check valve



Calculating Number of Days

- Fill container with water
- Place exactly in final location
- Run in 1 minute intervals, count.
 - Each minute = 1 day
 - When the water has run out:
count=# of days.



Calculating Fertilizers

- Add up all fertilizers you would dose manually over same time period. Add to container.
- Fill the rest with water.
- Observe and adjust.
- **Tips:**
 - Do not mix micro with macro-nutrients.
 - Add Excel or Acid Buffer to avoid mold. Keep in dark.
 - Refill at water change.

Questions?