

Praziquantel

What it is: Praziquantel is a bitter tasting powder which is both mixed in the fish food and taken orally or can be absorbed directly from the treated water, to get rid of internal flukes (trematodes) and internal worms in fish.

What it's good at: Praziquantel does not require water changes, praziquantel is harmless to fish of *all* species including Discus, Koi and goldfish fry, and is non toxic to plants, and; (unlike Formalin), praziquantel has no negative filter impact and is more gentle on the fish.

Background: It was determined also that the Praziquantel was effective at killing and stopping monogenetic trematode, cestode, marine monogenean and digenean infections. Repeat dosing is usually recommended but this concept should be verified. It is entirely conceivable that the worms/flukes can be eradicated with only one treatment. Minimum treatment levels also should be reviewed and tested.

Pros: The advantages are that Praziquantel is entirely benign to plants, fish and filter while clearing the Flukes and intestinal worms out rapidly and completely, even with fry.

Cons: Now, it can be considered that [praziquantel](#) is the least- expensive specific aquacultural Fluke treatment for ornamental ponds. When you consider that it requires only one or two doses and does NOT require water changes, nor plant removal, nor increased water agitation, this remedy is even superior to the "once king" Fluke Tab which contained a potentially damaging organophosphate and has enjoyed, at best, spotty availability during the summer. Non specific Fluke remedies such as Formalin or Potassium permanganate are not risk free. Praziquantel is expected to be commercially available early in the Spring of 2003. Precautions: Do not use on food fish or fish intended to be used as food. Keep out of reach of children. Do not take internally except by or on the order of your physician.

Treatment: The levels given below are not advisable for juvenile fish. It can be given orally or as a bath. Prazi does not dissolve easily in water.

Bath: 10mg/L for 3 hours (1-2g/100L) or 2mg/L for 24 hours

The drug is simply stirred vigorously (it is not easy to dissolve) into a liter of clean water and, when mostly dissolved, the white colored suspension is deposited into a high-flow area of the pond. Fish may appear narcotized after dip.

Discontinue carbon and UV during treatment to avoid inactivation of the Praziquantel. You do not need to bypass the filter nor worry about oxygen levels during treatment. The most successful treatments are deployed in cleaner ponds, so any excess leaf litter or debris should be removed. Clearance of the flukes can be determined by microscopy or the overall improvement of signs of flashing and scratching.

Oral: 0.5-1g/kg feed

On occasion, segments or ribbons of worms may be passed in the fish stools and are generally of no concern to human health. No side effects as far as fish behavior or health have been reported or expected.

If you're treating a Fluke infestation, traditional wisdom suggests a repeat treatment at weekly intervals for 3 weeks after the first treatment for egg laying monogeneans.