

Got Duckweed?

Steps to Maintaining Duckweed-Free

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photo credit Andy Keyes, Assistant Superintendent at The Meadows at Mystic Lake

Hopefully at this point in the season you have gotten the algae in your pond under control, but here comes another menace -“Duckweed”. It starts out slow. Some small green oval-shaped body called a “frond” start growing around the edges of your pond. These fronds proliferate into colonies which if not treated, can cover the entire surface of the pond.

Common duckweed is a very

small light green free-floating, seed bearing plant. Duckweed has one to three leaves with a single root-hair. Duckweed reproduces by means of asexual reproduction called budding. One single duckweed plant forms a daughter bud per day. Duckweed spreads rapidly, especially in quiet water containing high levels of nitrogen and phosphates. Now what do you do?

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There are basically two ways to control Duckweed. The natural option would be to rake or seine the surface of the pond. The other option is to treat the Duckweed chemically. The following are the chemical control options available:

- Liquid Diquat -brand name SeaPro or Litora - has been effective on duckweed. It is a contact algaecide and herbicide. Contact herbicides act quickly

and kill all plants cells the contact

- Floridone - brand names include SeaPro, Sonar AS, Avast, and Whitecap. These are broad spectrum, systemic herbicides that are absorbed and move within the plant to the site of action. Floridone compounds come in both liquid and granular forms. Systemic herbicides tend to act more slowly than contact herbi-



cides.

- Imazapyr - brand name Habitat - is a systemic herbicide that is effective on post-emergent floating and emergent aquatic vegetation. Imazapyr is effective at low-volume rates and does not contain heavy metals, organochlorides, or phosphates, making it safe for animals and humans.
- Liquid Penoxsulam - brand name Galleon - is a broad spectrum, systemic herbicide that is absorbed and moves within the plant to the site of action. Like Floridone, this herbicide tends to act more slowly than a contact herbicide.
- Flumioxazin - brand name Clipper- is a water dispersible gran-

ule which must be mixed in water first and then either sprayed or injected. This is a broad spectrum, contact herbicide that acts quickly. When using Flumioxazin, it is important that the pH level in the pond is below 8.5 or Flumioxazin will rapidly degrade and lose effectiveness.

Many aquatically registered herbicides have water use restrictions. It is important to always read and follow the label directions and check label for specific water use restrictions. It is also important to determine the correct area and/or volume of the pond to be treated. To determine the amount of gallons of water in the pond, use the following equation:

Length x Width x Average Depth
x 7.5 = Total Gallons. For area
treatment; Length x Width = Total
Surface Area.

As you can see there are many options
available to control Duckweed. And
remember, ponds are a lot like people,
they are all different. Not every
pond responds to the same treatment
program. It is important to keep
as much debris out of the pond as
possible and to monitor the pond on
an ongoing basis. Each pond has its
own issues that need to be addressed
to determine the most effective
treatment plan.



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