

face acre to clean it up," estimates Price. "The submersed problem is the highest priced with some species requiring as much as \$35 per acre foot. (A 1-acre pond 10 feet deep would cost \$350.)

Concerning time and length of control, an airboat can cover one surface acre in about 30 minutes, and most weeds could be expected to disappear in about a week.

In many situations, broad cost-sharing appears to be the only feasible — and fair — way to handle an aquatic weed problem.

At Winter Park, Fla., for example, Parks and Recreation Director Jay L. Blanchard says:

"We feel that because of the value of the chain of lakes to the city as a whole, it (aquatic weed infestation) is a community problem, a county problem, a state problem, and it is a federal problem."

Residents of Winter Park have at least agreed that aquatic weeds is a community problem by approving a city-wide one-mill levy to become effective on Nov. 1. They approved the levy to finance the fight against aquatic weeds even though only about 10% of the residents are lake property owners.



Pennsalt has become Pennwalt since a recent merger. Assistance and consultation on aquatic weeds are available through four offices, in Tacoma, Wash., Philadelphia, Pa., Montgomery, Ala., and Orlando, Fla.

Winter Park has 14 lakes, either part or wholly within the city limits. The lakes represent 800 acres of surface water and more than 20 miles of shore line.

#### Working for Winter Park Since '66

The aquatic weed problem has

taken on such magnitude that the next year's budget calls for a Lakes Division within the Parks and Recreation Department. The budget will be between \$150,000 and \$180,000. Eight men out of a 60-man staff work in aquatics full-time. Winter Park has used mechanical harvesters since 1963 and three years ago brought in the Pennwalt Aquatic Applying Service as added reinforcement.

In the past 2½ years, Winter Park has spread 17½ tons of Hydrothol 191 at a cost of \$14,425. The coming year's budget calls for four aquatic herbicide applications at an estimated \$20,000.

"We find this herbicide to be very satisfactory, and individual lake front homeowners are pleased with the results," says Blanchard.

Despite the city's mounting attack, in budgetary terms from about \$18,000 in 1966 to possible \$180,000 next year, the total weed population is increasing.

"Still, we feel the best method is to continue both the mechanical harvesting and herbicide treatments," states Blanchard. "Right now, we feel we've pulled ahead of the game in physical appearance."

## An Airboat You Can Build

Need a floating platform to work narrow canals, maneuver among aquatic weed beds, or investigate shallows where motors cannot navigate? Then, consider the outfit put together by Leonard Devine, superintendent of public works at Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Devine bought a 12 hp motor, added a screen-enclosed 42-inch propeller, and mounted the outfit on a

14-foot, flat-bottomed boat, 6' 10" in width. Result is a unit weighing about 350 pounds that can be hauled on any trailer. It's truly an air-driven platform that's useful for pesticide application of aquatic weeds.

His bill of materials and approximate cost consisted of: (1) Model 300421 Briggs and Stratton 12 hp motor @\$231; (2) a 42" propeller with 24° pitch and 1" shaft size, designed for counter-clockwise rotation @\$37; and (3) a Monticello aluminum flat-bottom boat @\$350; plus miscellaneous screen and mounting brackets.

His regular spray equipment is hauled in the boat. It consists of a John Bean spray pump, hose and tanks, etc.

Devine says it has proved practical for municipal weed control and mosquito spraying and fogging. Because the unit is capable of slow speeds and very maneuverable, it has proved an excellent piece of equipment for close-in work in small canals which are typical of many city problem areas.



Hubert "The Boatman" Williams, pilots Palm Beach Garden's aquatic spray boat on a local canal. Lloyd "Tex" Horrell is sprayman and does all of the city's aquatic weed control work.