Will one treatment control weeds and algae all year? This question is often raised. Usually aquatic weeds can be controlled with one application. It is sometimes necessary to spot treat a week or two later to take care of weeds which may have been missed by the initial application. For algae control it is usually necessary to treat more than once a season, followed by periodic spot treating when new growth appears.

Algae are better controlled if the algaecide is applied directly on the algae. If a pond has filamentous algae concentrated primarily near the shore or on the bottom in the shallow areas, use the recommended amount of algaecide to treat the entire pond but apply it only where the algae are growing. Never add algaecide to clear algae-free water, It probably will be wasted.

Finally, if the weed and algae growth are moderate to heavy, don't treat the entire body of water at one time. Treat half of it one week and half a week or ten days later. This will insure that the dead weeds and algae will not rapidly and completely deplete the dissolved oxygen. A great number of fish kills result not from any toxic property of the chemical used but from a lack of oxygen caused by decaying dead algae and weeds.

Algae and aquatic weeds can usually be controlled satisfactorily in most bodies of water. To obtain satisfactory control, however, it is necessary to survey the body of water, to determine the kinds of weeds and algae present, the area, and the flow of water through the pond or lake. On the basis of this and other information a sound and successful recommendation for treatment of the body of water can be made. □

Man Major Agent In Seed Dispersal

Man is the most important agent in seed dissemination reports Frieda Wertman of Central Seed Laboratory in Hopkins, Minn.

The distribution of agricultural and garden seeds is the prime source of weed seeds. Almost every crop includes some seed which resembles the desirable kind in size-shape-weight and even color so well that even the best cleaning equipment does not do a perfect job.

The actual spread of species varies. A large number of plants remain confined to the area where they were introduced; others spread rapidly even though they had been introduced but once.

Significant though man's role is, Ms. Wertman noted, plants, fruit and seeds have natural means of dispersal. Wind, water, animals and structual features of the seeds help in seed dispersal.

Minute seeds like witchweed, paint-brush and orchids can be borne aloft like dust for miles. The wind also carries heavy seeds that are plumed like the milkweeds, thistles, dandelions and willows or with wings like maple, poplar and dock. Gusts of wind may blow seeds across the surface of snow and ice or hasten their progress downstream.

The winged fruits of common dock have corky protuberances which permit them to float. These seeds also provide food for rodents and birds or if dropped in mud along with other seeds that occur in wet areas, they adhere to the feathers, feet or fur of other animals.

Burred fruits and seeds like cocklebur, buffalobur, sticktight may help in the dispersal of the plant but they are more than a nuisance.