

Load It With Logs... Then Chew 'Em To Chips

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It's automatic! Just load any log or piece of wood—up to 4' wide, 6' long—into the hopper... where carbide-tipped cutting teeth chew it to chips in minutes. Handy conveyor then deposits chips in truck for easy disposal.

He pointed out that the fish is native to Siberia and requires swiftly moving cold waters to reproduce. He doubts the amur will ever be able to reproduce in Florida's warm waters, which makes it more attractive as a natural or biological control agent for hydrilla.

The floating water hyacinth is not a part of its preferred diet, but the fish will consume this weed as a last resort, he said.

Sutton explained the UF research project near Orlando involves four ponds which are planted with several types of desirable and undesirable plants, including the troublesome hydrilla. In the control pond (with no amur), hydrilla grew rapidly to problem proportions, crowding out desirable plants. But in the three ponds stocked with amur, the hydrilla has been controlled proportionately to the number of amur they contained.

He estimates 25 to 50 amur would be needed to control each acre of submersed vegetation, but the actual number would depend on the amount of waterweeds and the size of the fish.

Sutton's research indicates the amur will consume about two and one half times its body weight daily, gaining from three to twelve pounds a year. It can reach weights of sixty to one hundred pounds before dying of natural causes.

He added that the fish is a welcome source of food in China and southeast Asia, and it's being introduced as a fish for aquaculture in Europe.

"It resembles Florida's mullet,

tastes a lot like catfish, and will strike artificial lures, offering some possibilities for sport fishing," Sutton stated.

Shipping Infected Nursery Stock Injures Credibility

Incidents of disease and insect infested nursery stock being shipped across state lines even though a state inspection certificate has been issued have been reported by the American Association of Nurserymen.

In a recent speech to the National Plant Board, Dean F. Lovitt, chief of the plant industry division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, attributes blame for this situation not only to state regulatory officials but to the nursery industry as well.

"In recent years," says Lovitt, "we as regulatory officials have become distracted and preoccupied by such national issues as USDA reorganization, the APHIS budget, the pesticide flap, pesticide control, FEPCA, OSHA, Federal quarantine rescissions and other such problems that the discharge of our responsibility to the nursery industry and to its customers has continued on its own momentum with only an occasional nudge from us.

"Likewise," he continued "I submit that the industry has been distracted and preoccupied by some of those same developments and by the need to supply an expanding market in the face of such problems

as escalating costs, transportation and marketing complications, taxes and associated situations."

He cited several incidents of infested nursery stock being shipped into Michigan. He indicated that these infestations were clearly obvious, and should have been readily seen by any inspector or nurseryman... if he had looked at the plants.

Although there is clearly a problem, Lovitt indicated that it is not yet widespread. "We seldom have problems with shipments of stock from many states and many nurseries. It is interesting that in those states where there apparently is a lack of regulatory capacity, certain nursery firms can always be counted on to deliver stock that lives up to the inspection certificate. Those are not the nurseries that regulations were created for," states Lovitt.

To better understand this problem and help find practical solutions, Mr. Lovitt suggests nurserymen give serious attention to "credibility of inspection certificates."

"The American Association of Nurserymen believes the problem of improper certification of nursery stock needs review," says Ray Brush, AAN administrator, "and Mr. Lovitt's suggestion is appreciated. We plan to explore it further with the AAN Quarantine Committee when it meets in January. At that time we will review the various points to be made on the subject and consider a nursery industry panel to meet with the National Plant Board at its next meeting."