

Aquatic weeds.... What you can and cannot do to control these pest plants

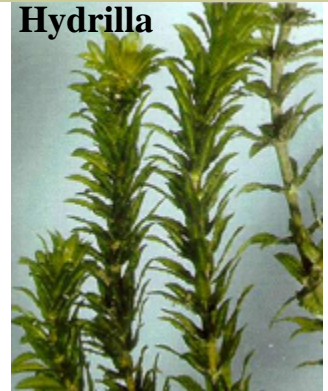
*The only time you may legally apply a pesticide to a water body is if that body is contained entirely on your property, and does not drain into or connect to **any other water body**, at any time of the year.

*Aquatic pesticide application (including herbicides) to state waters is illegal in the State of Maine without a wastewater discharge permit from the Department of Environmental Protection.

"Waters of the state" as defined by state law, means "any and all surface and subsurface waters that are contained within, flow through, or under or border upon this State or any portion of the State, including the marginal and high seas, except such waters as are confined and retained completely upon the property of one person and do not drain into or connect with any other waters of the State, but not excluding waters susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, or whose use, degradation or destruction would affect interstate or foreign commerce." 38 MRSA 361-A(7).



Variable Watermilfoil



Hydrilla

Dos, don'ts of invasive plant control: If you find nuisance aquatic weeds growing around your dock or shoreline, **do** first call the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). **Don't** apply any aquatic weed control product. Here's why:

DO

Maine enjoys many native species of water plants. However, non-native invasive aquatic weeds are becoming an increasing concern in Maine too. These pest plants can overwhelm your favorite lake quickly, literally choking out its native plant, fish and bird life as well as rendering it unsuitable for enjoyable swimming and boating.

A qualified DEP biologist can tell you whether your weed is friend or foe and provide options for its control. Among those options is allowing shoreland owners to pull vegetation by hand. Permits for this select purpose are available simply and quickly from the DEP.

If found to be a non-native invasive plant, the DEP has both the resources and commitment to prevent it from spreading further in your lake as well as into neighboring lakes and ponds.

DON'T

Aquatic weed control chemicals—herbicides that claim to rid lakes of these nuisance weeds—may **not** be applied in any state waters in Maine. Various state and federal regulations back this law with severe penalties. Only in rare circumstances will the DEP issue a special permit to state resource management agencies or their contractors to apply these chemicals. **Don't be persuaded by the availability of these products through retailers and mail order or internet catalog sales; their use is prohibited because of the inherent risks associated with any pesticide!**

For more information about invasive aquatic plants, permits and aquatic herbicides, contact the Maine Department of Environmental Protection at (207) 287-3901 or the Maine Board of Pesticides Control at (207) 287-2731.

For More Info

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333 Deering Building
AMHI Complex
Augusta, Maine -04333-0028

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Visit: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/index.htm>