

How to control aquatic weeds in farm ponds and lakes

SCRANTON — Will aquatic weeds keep you from enjoying your pond or lake this summer? Not if you begin taking steps now to control them.

"All ponds have aquatic plants of some kind," said Russell James, aquatic biologist from Scranton. "But plants are only weeds

when they interfere with human activities. Water weeds can lock up a pond's fertility, interfere with fishing or swimming, and leave gamefish with an unpleasant flavor."

Identifying the problem weeds should be the first step in maintaining the recreational or aesthetic value of any lake or pond.

According to James, the biggest aquatic weed problem in the Northeast comes from submergent weeds. These plants grow entirely underwater. They are rooted in the bottom, but may break the surface as they mature and bloom. Unfortunately, by the time they become visible, they are well-established and

thriving.

The growth of water weeds generally corresponds to warming weathering in the spring, James said.

He emphasized that early action against undesirable aquatic plants—by attacking the problem when it's small—can eliminate far more costly problems later in the summer.

The first step in controlling aquatic weeds involves pond construction, according to the Department of Agriculture. Most plants grow best in shallow areas and one possible solution to weed problems may be to cut the shoreline so it slopes abruptly. But even in well-built ponds, water weeds will gradually build up just as they do in a field. And not surprisingly, the cure is the same.

resulting problems worse than before.

Generally, chemical control is recognized as the most effective and economical method for attacking water weeds. An early preventive maintenance program using a broad spectrum aquatic herbicide can prevent weed infestations without harming fish and game. According to James, Diquat is considered the heavyweight aquatic herbicide because it controls weeds in all four categories—submergent, emergent, floating and algae.

To clear a small area, the weeds can be pulled out by hand, but this can be a chore. Another alternative is to mechanically remove them with an underwater cutting device. But this is costly and frequently ineffective. Certain weed species, for example, are spread when they are broken up by machines, making the

If you recognize or suspect a weed problem in your pond, it's a good idea to seek professional advice. Your county extension agent, local fish and game representative, ag-chemical dealer or custom applicator are good sources for information.

Berks 4-H to sponsor canoe safety course

LEESPORT — A two-day course on Canoe Safety will be offered by the Berks County 4-H Office and the Berks County Chapter of the

American Red Cross. Instruction will be given on June 18th and 19th at the Reading Boat Works, along the Schuylkill River in Bern

Township. The program will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Registration is limited, and participants will be selected on a first come, first serve basis. A registration fee of one dollar will be collected the day of the program. Participants do not have to be 4-H club members.

Interested persons may register by contacting Richard S. Kauffman, County 4-H Agent at the Extension Service Office, in the Berks County

Agricultural Center, 378-1327.

Requirements for the course are that you must be able to swim for one minute without support and be able to put on a lifejacket in deep water, without touching bottom, and float for five minutes. Testing will be made for these requirements the first day of the program.

If you own a canoe, you may bring it along. Those who successfully complete the course will receive canoe safety certification forms from the Red Cross.



GIGANTIC SELECTION
IN
Lancaster Farming's CLASSIFIEDS

Livestock market and auction news

Belleville Auction

Wednesday, May 28

CATTLE 109. (REPORT SUPPLIED BY THE AUCTION). Compared with last Wednesday's market; Standard holstein steers 50.60-54.10. Utility & Commercial slaughter cows 45.50-47.75, Cutters 43.50-46.00, Canner & Low Cutter 39.50-42.50, Shells down to 38.00. Yield Grade #1 slaughter bulls 53.00-56.00. Few Medium & Large Frame #2 300-700 lbs. feeder steers 65.00-82.00.

CALVES 137. Choice vealers 92.00-98.50, Standard & Good 70-90 lbs. 74.00-90.00, Utility 50-100 lbs. 62.50-73.00.

Farm calves, holstein bulls 85-125 lbs. 97.00-126.50; few holstein heifers 85-130 lbs. 125.0-164.00.

HOGS 268. US No. 1-2 200-245 lbs. barrows & gilts 32.25-33.85, No. 1-3 200-250 lbs. 31.50-32.50, No. 2-3 200-270 lbs. 29.00-31.00. US No. 1-3 300-550 lbs. sows 25.25-27.50, No. 2-3 300-600 lbs. 20.00-22.50. Boars 19.00-21.00.

FEEDER PIGS 444. US No. 1-3 15-25 lbs. feeder pigs 10.00-13.50 per head, No. 1-3 25-40 lbs. 14.00-22.50 per head.

SHEEP 76. Choice 70-80 lbs. spring slaughter lambs 68.00-68.00, Good 50-75 lbs. 62.00-66.00. Slaughter ewes 18.00-29.00.

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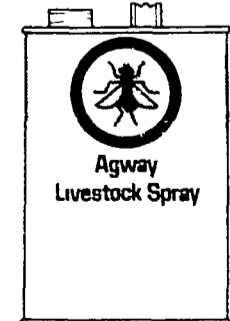


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