AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT
UPI
United Phosphorus, Inc.

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Monoecious vs. Dioecious Hydrilla — They Might be Related, but They aren't Twins

— Cody Gray, Field Development Representative

Hydrilla [*Hydrilla verticillata (L.F.) Royle*] is a troublesome non-native aquatic plant that commonly forms dense surface canopies in many types of water bodies. Hydrilla infestations minimize recreational activities, such as boating, water skiing, fishing, hunting, etc. Therefore, controlling hydrilla in these waters is extremely important. In recent years, monoecious hydrilla has begun to become more problematic and has spread into many water bodies in the northern portions of the United States, while dioecious hydrilla is typically found in southern U.S. climates. While these two biotypes are of the same species, they act like completely separate plants:

Monoecious
- Introduced in 1980s
- Native to tropics
- Sexual reproduction organs on same plant
- Found in Northern U.S.
- Less robust
- Senesces every year
- May produce seed
- Tubers formed June – November
- Data suggests a chilling period is required for tuber germination

Dioecious
- Introduced in 1950s
- Native to temperate climates
- Sexual reproduction organs on different plants
- Found in Southern U.S.
- More robust
- Root crown persists
- No seed production
- Tubers formed October – April
- Data suggests a chilling period is not well supported for tuber germination

These key differences are a clear indication of why monoecious and dioecious hydrilla must be treated as two separate plants. Most of the herbicide applications made to control dioecious hydrilla occur from October to April. During those months, monoecious hydrilla is dormant and will not begin sprouting until ice has receded from many of the water bodies it infests. Additionally, monoecious hydrilla has a relatively short time period to sprout, maximize growth, and set tubers until senescence occurs during the fall months. With this in mind, managers also have short time window for maximizing their control efforts in minimizing tuber set and spread of the plant.

When managing hydrilla, it's crucial to implement the correct management strategies and tactics, dependent upon the hydrilla biotype in your pond or lake. Please consult your local UPI representative for current hydrilla management recommendations.

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The First annual Aquatic Vegetation Management Award

The first annual Aquatic Vegetation Management Award sponsored by B.A.S.S. Conservation, the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF), and the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) was recently awarded to the Lake Oconee Bassmasters from Georgia during the Bassmaster Classic Conservation Summit in Birmingham, AL. Tony Beck, the B.A.S.S. Nation's Conservation Director for the state of Georgia and member of the Lake Oconee Bassmasters, accepted the award, along with a check to the Lake Oconee Bassmasters for $1,500. The award was presented by Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, Carlton Layne, Executive Director of the AERF, and Mike Netherland, President of APMS. The Lake Oconee Bassmasters project was establishing native aquatic vegetation (water willow) in Lake Oconee, Lake Richard B. Russell, and Lake Jackson to enhance the habitat for fisheries and wildlife over the past five years.

Pictured above: Tony Beck, Oconee Bassmasters (center) accepts the Aquatic Plant Management Conservation Award from Carlton Layne (left) Executive Director of AERF and Mike Netherland (right) President of the APMS.

Tony will present information about the vegetation establishment project at the Annual APMS Meeting in Savannah, GA in July. The Aquatic Vegetation Management Award will be offered again in 2014 to the B.A.S.S. Nation Club that conducts the most outstanding project that addresses control of invasive, non-native aquatic plants, promotes the propagation of native vegetation, or both.

We want to hear from you! Please send your feedback to gerald.adrian@uniphos.com.