

New Educational DVD—Catalog # AGDVD-01

Management of Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plants occur to some degree in all ponds but over half of the pond owners surveyed in Pennsylvania felt that their pond had too much aquatic plant growth. As a result, many pond owners seek methods to control the unwanted growth of aquatic plants. If not done carefully, some of these methods can have disastrous and unintended results for the pond or other nearby water resources. The purpose of this video is to highlight the benefits of aquatic plants and algae along with suitable strategies to control excessive growth when it occurs.

Video Content (running time is approximately 30 minutes)

Chapter 1—Pond Ecology and the Role of Aquatic Plants—Learn about the many benefits that aquatic plants provide to your pond or lake including aesthetic beauty, sediment stabilization, nutrient control, and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Chapter 2—Getting to Know Your Pond—Learn about the sources of water and the land area or “watershed” that feeds the pond. Also learn how to measure the surface area and the volume of water in the pond and why these characteristics can be important when managing aquatic plants.

Chapter 3—Causes and Prevention of Overabundant Aquatic Plant Growth—Excessive amounts of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous are the most likely cause of abundant aquatic plant growth. This chapter discusses ways to reduce nutrients entering the pond through changes in land uses, buffer strips and controlling animal sources of nutrients.

Chapter 4—Types of Aquatic Plants and Algae—Accurate identification of aquatic plants is a critical first step to controlling their growth. Common examples of algae, submerged plants, floating plants and emergent plants that grow in Pennsylvania ponds are illustrated.

Chapter 5—Physical Control Strategies—Pond plants can often be controlled through harvesting, drawdown, dredging or aeration. Each of these methods are demonstrated along with video of a mechanized lake harvester.

Chapter 6—Biological Control Strategies—Grass carp can often be used to control submerged aquatic plants. This chapter discusses the use of grass carp along with other biological control methods like bacteria/enzyme additives and barley straw.

Chapter 7—Chemical Control Strategies—There are aquatic herbicides available to control any aquatic plant. However, their use must be considered carefully to ensure successful results without damaging the pond ecosystem. This chapter discusses how to choose the correct herbicide, the state permit requirement, personal safety issues when applying herbicides and proper methods and timing for aquatic herbicide use.

Ordering Information

This DVD can be ordered for \$5 per copy (plus 6% sales tax and shipping) from the Publications Distribution Center at Penn State University. They can be contacted at 814-865-6713 or by email at AgPubsDist@psu.edu. You can also visit their web site at: <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/>. Credit card orders can be placed by calling 877-345-0691.

The DVD can also be ordered through your local county Cooperative Extension office.

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