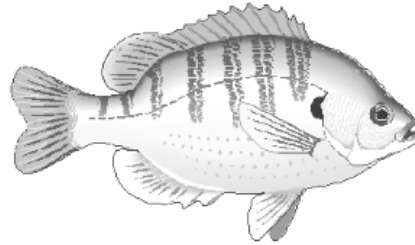


# Ohio Pond News



The Ohio State University



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## Did You Know?

- There really is a bird called "snipe"! Many folks are aware that being taken out on a snipe hunt results in one coming home in their underwear. A typical college prank! However, there truly is such a bird, and it's real name is Wilson's snipe. It migrates thru Ohio in spring and fall.

## When To Start Treating Plant Problems?

As winter faded into spring (and winter came back for a least awhile), I begin to get calls about when to control submerged aquatic plants. While I commend the pond owners for being proactive in their management of aquatic plants, I caution them about applying aquatic herbicides too early and potentially wasting their money. On top of that, they may have to re-treat to attain the level of control they desire. I think it is fitting to discuss timing those spring applications of aquatic herbicides for maximum efficacy.

First and foremost, I urge pond owners to consider their pond uses and determine what level of control is desired. Aquatic vegetation can provide some tangible benefits in some cases. Ponds managed for fish and wildlife need some submerged aquatic plants as they provide valuable nursery area, protection from predators, and food resources. People who have ponds used primarily for swimming or watering nursery stock tend to prefer less plants to avoid fouling swimmers feet or clogging pumps.

How early is too early? It is generally recommended that aquatic herbicides not be applied until plants are growing vigorously but not yet reached high levels of biomass. Generally, this means holding off those applications until mid-May or so. Specifically, it is often wise not to treat submerged aquatic plants until water temperatures exceed 60 F and we know those temperatures will persist for several days. In cold water, plants tend to slow down metabolically and this can impact uptake of the

product. If cold water persists, product decay might occur prior to the application achieving the desired results. We also have some submerged aquatic plants that are late germinators and an early application may allow them to still become a nuisance later on.

Every spring, we seem to have that early warm spell in April that sends water temperatures into the 60's and causes some plant growth to become visible. The pond owner get nervous and want to initiate control measures. This past spring was a perfect example. We were abnormally warm (if not hot several days) the last two weeks of March and the first few days of April. Water temperatures soared into the upper 60's and lower 70's, prompting the phone calls on "Can I treat now?" Then the bottom fell out. Within several brutally cold days, water temperatures fell back into the 40's. Any treatment just prior to the cold snap likely was a waste of money as some submerged plant species had not yet begun to actively grow and those that were growing entered into a low period of metabolic activity. Control would have been low at best.

Are there exceptions to the rule? Yes, there are two invasive submerged plant species from Eurasia, Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, that are susceptible to aquatic herbicides in early spring. These two submerged plant species actively grow in colder water, particularly as water temperatures rise thru the 50's. If you own a pond with either of

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# Annual Pond Maintenance Checklist

*Editors note: I heard Rob Clendening of the Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District make this presentation and found it enlightening. He graciously allowed me to reproduce his handout in this newsletter for your use.*

## **Dike / Dam Inspection:**

- Manage and control vegetation.
- Remove cattails on the water side of the dike or dam.
- Remove woody vegetation on the back side of the dike to prevent root penetration, especially on narrow dikes (evergreens generally not a problem).
- Manage weeds on the dike or dam that could provide habitat for unwanted habitat.
- Check for settlement.
- Check for rodent infestations - groundhogs and muskrats.

## **Spillway Pipe Inspection:**

- Check for corrosion on metal pipes and check the overall condition of pipes that may be made of other materials.
- Check for erosion along the sides of the pipe.
- Check condition of trash rack if present - do not use fine mesh screens.
- Check the condition of the anti-vortex device if present.

- Do not install risers or extenders not designed as part of the original spillway installation.

## **Shoreline:**

- Check for excessive shoreline erosion.
- Monitor areas where burrowing rodents may be present.
- Manage pond weeds if need be.

## **Watershed:**

- Inspect the immediate watershed area for problems with excessive erosion.
- Carefully manage fertilizer applications.
- Avoid use of insecticides in nearby areas.
- Maintain a grassed buffer around the pond (30-100 feet).
- Inspect outlets from your home sewage disposal system if applicable.
- Carefully manage pasture areas near the pond, prohibit unlimited livestock access.
- Avoid manure piles in the watershed, especially near concentrated flow areas.

*Rob Clendening - Knox County SWCD*

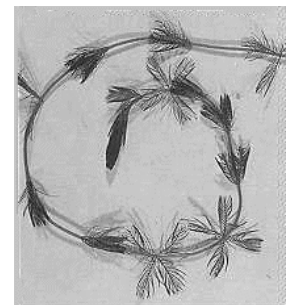
## When To Start Treating Plant Problems? - continued

these species, you might want to consider early season applications to control these species. Both of these species have a tendency to produce a monoculture underwater, and a healthy submerged plant community has a diversity of aquatic plant species. This is especially true for curly-leaf pondweed. This pondweed produces turions, it's method of reproduction, during April and early May in Ohio. Controlling curly-leaf pondweed prior to the formation of those turions can significantly reduce curly-leaf pondweed abundance in later years. This often requires early-season treatments several years in a row, but success can be attained.

Also, please note that contact aquatic herbicides work more quickly than systemic herbicides and tend to work better in colder water. The pond owner might consider using a contact herbicide when water temperatures are around 60 F and saving systemic herbicides for use as water temperatures approach 70 F.



*Curly-leaf pondweed*



*Eurasian watermilfoil*

*Bill Lynch, Program Specialist, OSUE Natural Resources*

# Why Not Use Round-Up Around Ponds?

Many folks are familiar with Round-Up, the glyphosate product so many of us use to control weeds around our yards. Many pond owners ask “Can I use Round-up to control plants and cattails growing around my ponds? The legal answer is no, as Round-up is federally labeled as a terrestrial herbicide, not an aquatic one. You might ask why? Round-Up contains a surfactant, which has been shown to be tough on amphibians and fish, particularly small fish. Additionally, this surfactant apparently also increases the toxicity of the glyphosate itself, making matters worse.

Pond owners should not despair. There are aquatic labeled

glyphosate products which will do the job that do not contain the surfactant typically found in Round-Up. Rodeo is the best known, but there are others such as Eagre, AquaPro, Shore-Klear to name a few. When using these aquatic glyphosate products, it is recommended that the user add a safe non-ionic surfactant, such as Cide-Kick, to the solution to enhance plant uptake. I like to add enough to prevent “beading” of the product on the emergent aquatic plants I’m treating. Keep in mind, aquatic glyphosate products are used to control emergent plants and some floating plants, not submerged plants or algae.

*Bill Lynch, Program Specialist, OSUE Natural Resources*

## Pond Factsheet Update

### Available

*Placing Artificial Fish Attractors in Ponds and Reservoirs:* OSUE Factsheet A-1.

*Pond Measurements:* OSUE Factsheet A-2.

*Controlling Filamentous Algae in Ponds:* OSUE Factsheet A-3.

*Chemical Control of Aquatic Weeds:* OSUE Factsheet A-4.

*Muddy Water in Ponds: Causes, Prevention, and Remedies:* OSUE Factsheet A-6.

*Understanding Pond Stratification:* OSUE Factsheet A-7.

*Winter and Summer Fish Kills in Ponds:* OSUE Factsheet A-8.

*Planktonic Algae in Ponds:* OSUE Factsheet A-9.

*Fish Species Selection for Pond Stocking:* OSUE Factsheet A-10.

*Cattail Management:* OSUE Factsheet A-11.

*Algae Control with Barley Straw:* OSUE Factsheet A-12.

*Ponds and Legal Liability in Ohio:* OSUE Factsheet ALS-1006.

*Ice Safety:* OSUE Factsheet AEX-392.

*Farm Pond Safety:* OSU Factsheet AEX-390.

*Notifying the Ohio EPA Prior to Applying Aquatic Herbicides:* OSUE Factsheet A-13.

*Duckweed and Watermeal: Prevention & Control:* OSUE Factsheet A-14.

*When to Apply Aquatic Herbicides:* OSUE Factsheet A-15.

*Pond Dyes and Aquatic Plant Management:* OSUE Factsheet A-16.

*Benefits & Problems of Aquatic Plants in Ponds:* OSUE Factsheet A-17.

*Note: these factsheets are available at [ohioline.osu.edu](http://ohioline.osu.edu).*

## 2007 Pond Clinic Schedule

The following is the 2007 Ohio Pond Clinic schedule as of press time. For time, location, and other details, contact your County Extension or SWCD agent.

Thursday, April 12 - Knox County

Saturday, May 19 - Clark, Union, Madison Counties

Wednesday, May 23 - Licking County

Wednesday, June 13 - Hancock County

Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Farm Science Review (numerous pond topics)

Wednesday, Sept. 19 - Farm Science Review (numerous pond topics)

Thursday, Sept. 20 - Farm Science Review (numerous pond topics)

If you want a pond clinic scheduled in your county, contact your county OSU Extension or SWCD office and let them know of your desire. They are always appreciative of folks who offer their pond as a clinic site.

The Ohio State University

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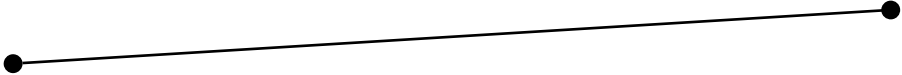
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