Monoecious Hydrilla Biology and Major Management Techniques



Rob Richardson Crop and Soil Science Dept. North Carolina State University

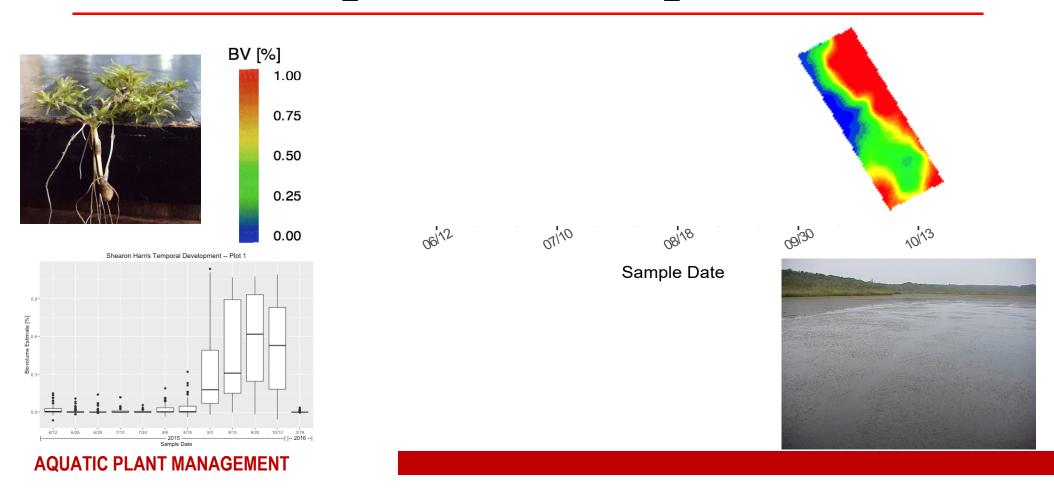


Hydrilla

- Called the "perfect aquatic weed" (Langeland 1996)
- #1 aquatic weed in U.S.
- Leaves in whorls of 3-10+
- Serrated leaf margins
- Tubers can remain in sediment for over 7 years
- Very shade tolerant
- Rapid growth: 262 ft of linear shoot tissue in 35 days (Glomski Netherland, 2012)



Temporal Development



Hydrilla Biotypes

- US:
 - Female triploid dioecious (FL and warm climates)
 - Triploid monoecious (NC and temperate climates)
 - New CT biotype
- Worldwide:
 - 9 biotypes in Japan (Nakamura and Kadono 2000)
 - Benoit (2011) theorized cryptic speciation
 - 1. Indian/Nepal (US dioecious) species*
 - 2. Japan/Korean/European species
 - 3. Indonesian/Malayasian species (AU/NZ)*

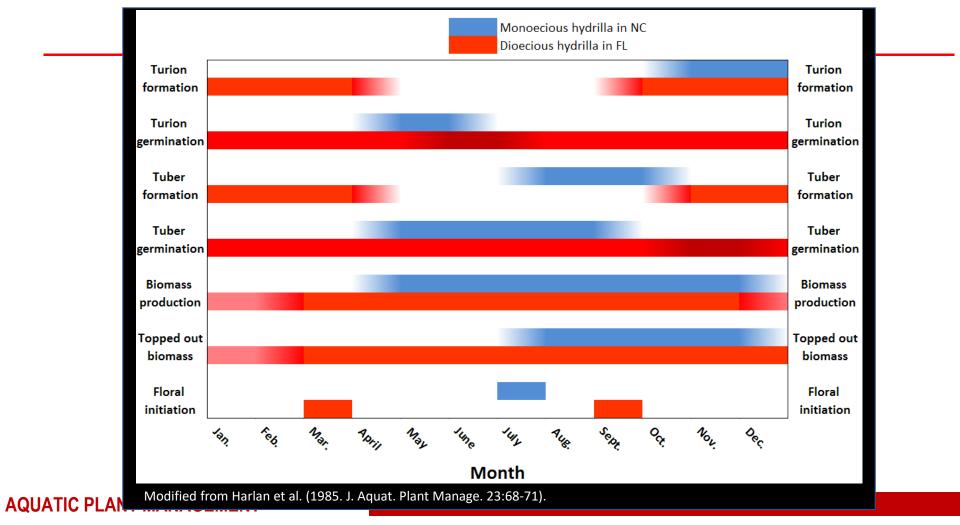
*US monoecious perhaps hybrid

Biotypes - Summary

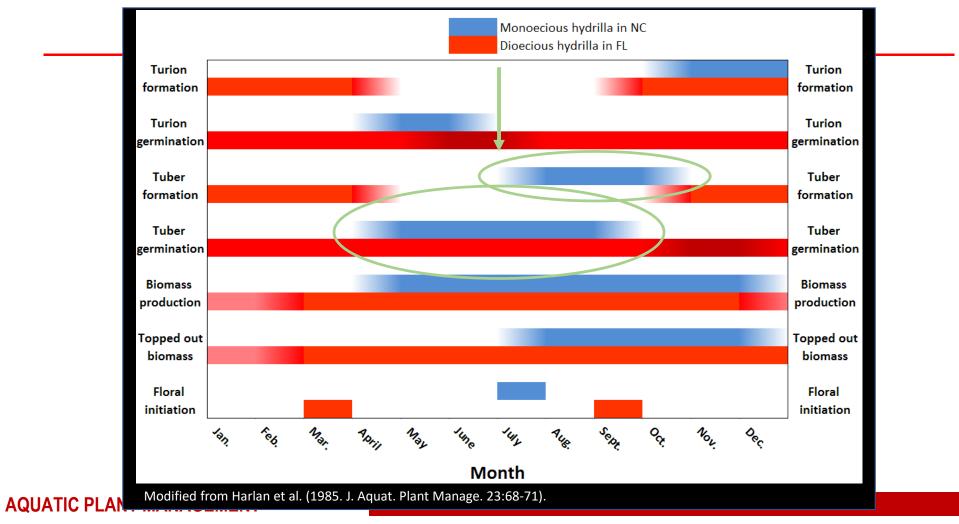
- Monoecious (historic)
 - Linked to Korea
 - Introduced mid 70's
 - Invaded NC & north
 - Less robust
 - Herbaceous perennial
 - May produce seed??
 - Tubers:
 - Formed June Nov.
 - Weight 76 to 139 mg
 - $430 1,700 / m^2$

- Dioecious
 - Linked to China, India
 - Introduced 1950's
 - Invaded SC & south
 - More robust
 - Root crown persists
 - No seed production
 - Tubers:
 - Formed Oct. April
 - Weight 188 to 290 mg
 - $60 900 / m^2$

Biotype Phenology



Biotype Phenology



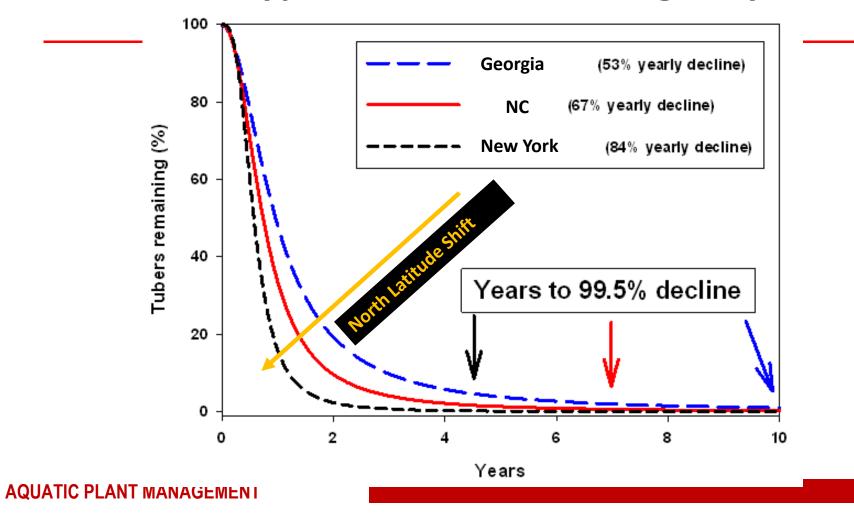
Why is Hydrilla so Problematic?

- Produces turions that may persist in sediment for 7+ years
- Grows faster than native plants
- Dense biomass:
 - Outcompetes native vegetation
 - Reduces habitat quantity and quality
 - Inhibits recreational activities
 - Clogs drinking water intakes
 - Avian disease link





Hypothetical Tuber Longevity



Shoot Growth Development in Darkness



Light or no light after 1 and 6 wk

What Do We Want to Accomplish with Management?

- Define system parameters
 - What is the "natural" state of the system?
 - Will weeds decrease ecosystem quality?
 - Will weeds decrease human satisfaction?
 - How likely are new introductions?



How Do We Make Weed Management Decisions?

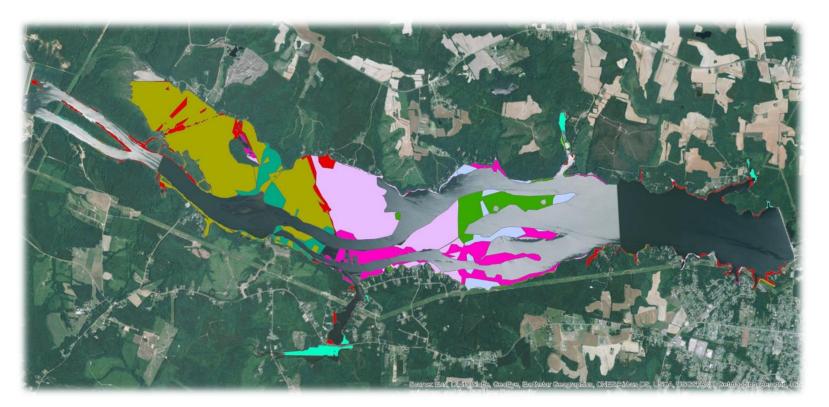
- Use of the body of water
 - Irrigation, consumption, recreation, etc.
- Plant identification
 - Plant biology and ecology
- Fish and wildlife populations
- Water quality
- Physical, environmental, and economic limitations



General Thoughts

- There is no silver bullet or "one-size fits all" approach
- Every waterbody is distinct and each needs to be clearly defined
 - Natural systems are more complex than impoundments
 - Impoundments are inherently artificial
- What are goals?
- Eradication is a big word with promises attached
- Technical advisory committees are very helpful
 - Due diligence
- Public input is necessary for many systems
- Public outreach is necessary for all systems

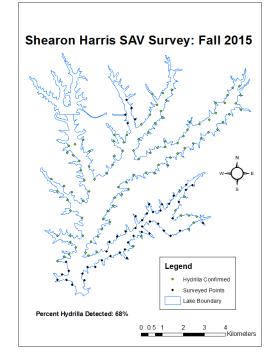
Lake Vegetation Surveys



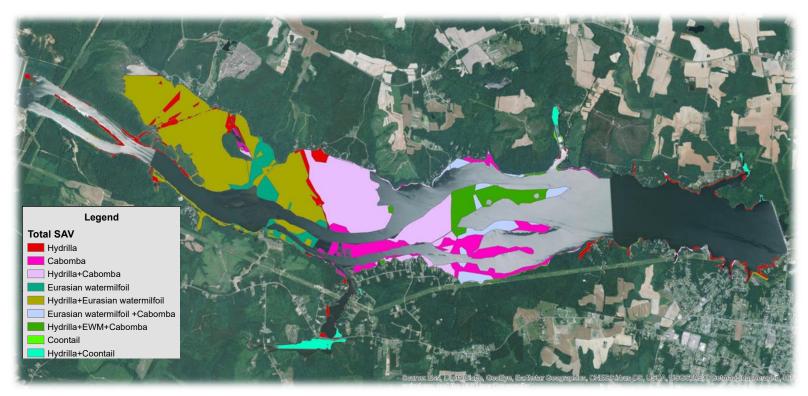
749.80 hectare total

Goals of Mapping Lake Vegetation

- Ecological assessment or to establish a standard to support management techniques through evaluating invasion levels
- Define plant distribution and abundance
- Quantify trends spatially, temporally, and overall dynamics
- Repeatability for future applications



SAV Coverage Roanoke Rapids Lake



749.80 hectare total

Linking Plant Biology to Management

- Each weed species will have different biological characteristics regarding growth, reproduction, etc.
- Management techniques need to reduce growth and interfere with reproduction
- Poor timing can make management fail
- Tools that look good in the short term may not hold up on a year to year basis



Linking Plant Biology to Management

- Species that produce propagules are more difficult to manage than those that don't
- Management must interfere with tuber production
- Hydrilla may require 10 years of treatment to deplete the turion bank
- Understanding species biology is important for targeting sensitive areas in the life cycle

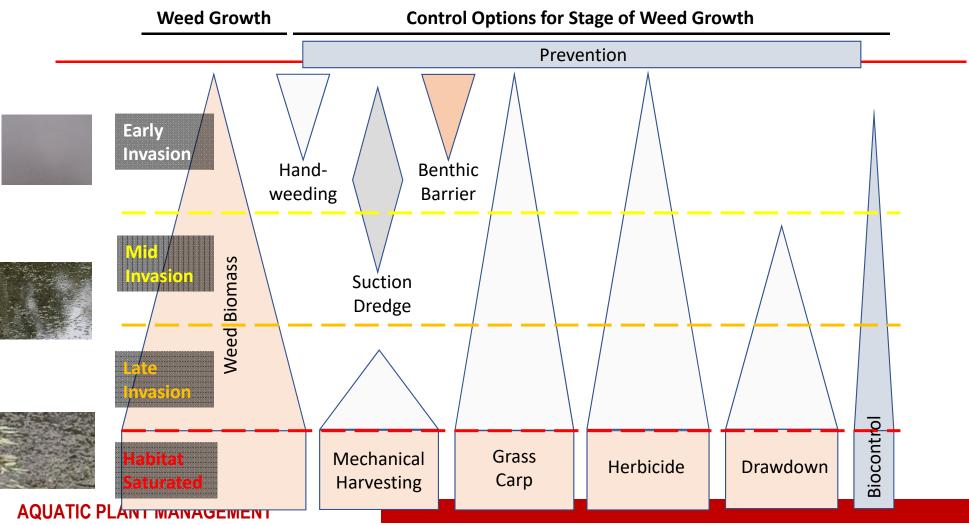


General Control Categories

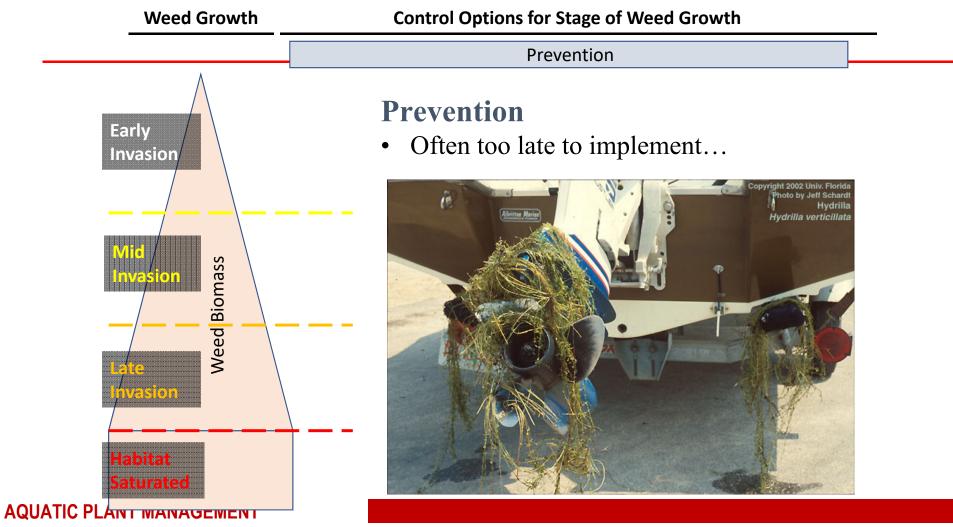
- Prevention
- Cultural
- •Mechanical/Physical
- •Biological
- •Chemical



Selecting Control Options



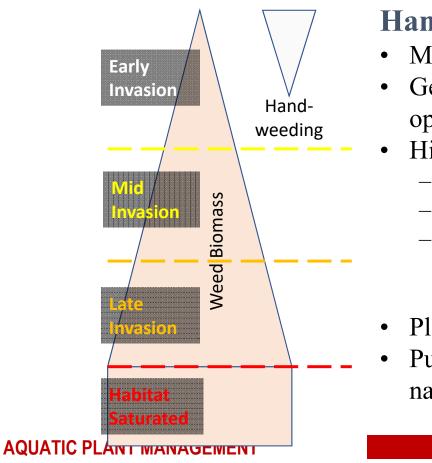
Selecting Control Options



Selecting Control Options

Weed Growth

Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



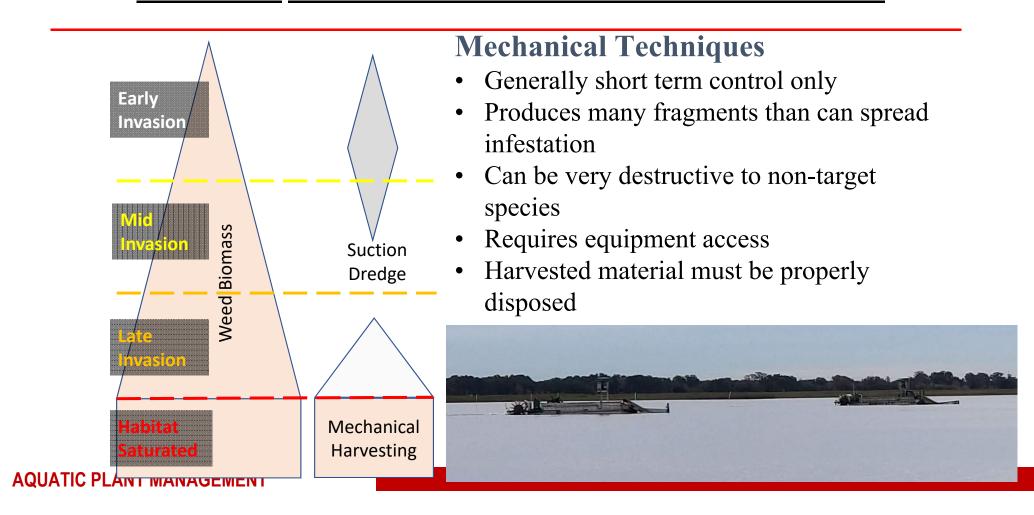
Handweeding

- Most common management form worldwide
- Generally for special situations with limited options or species easily pulled
- Highly labor intensive/inefficient
 - Aquatic plants may be up to 98% water
 - Divers can be precise, but are slow
 - Volunteers are cost effective, but limited
 - Liability: back injury, risk of heart attack or stroke
- Plants may reproduce quickly
- Pulling may disturb sediment and can bother native species

Selecting Control Options

Weed Growth

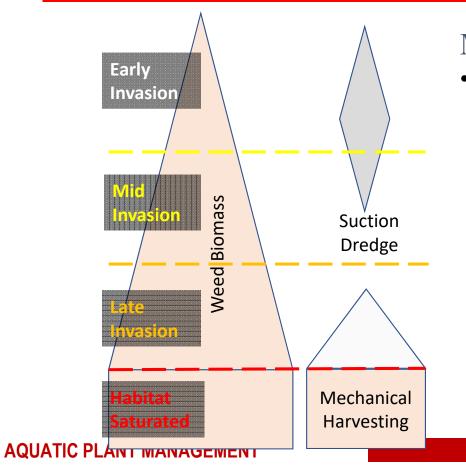
Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



Selecting Control Options

Weed Growth

Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



Mechanical Techniques

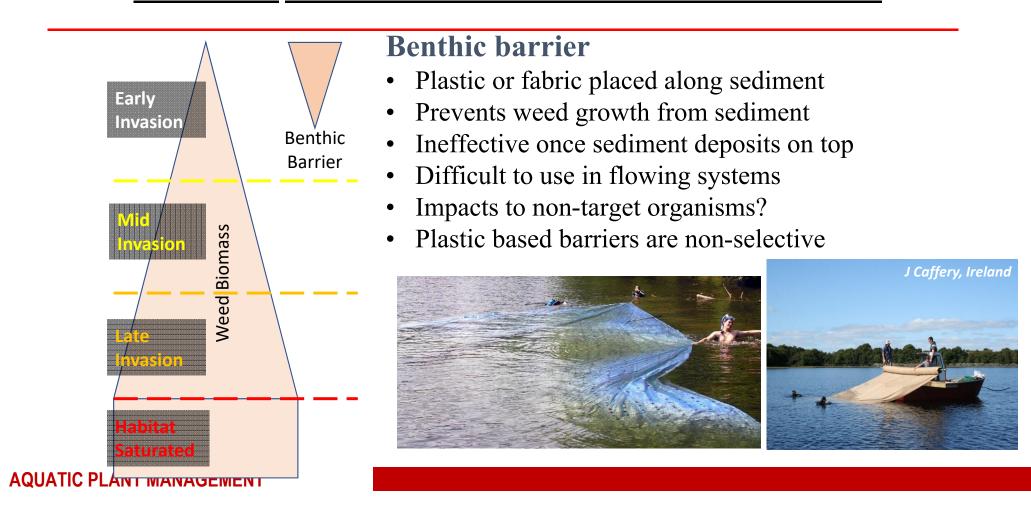
• Better for maintenance than control



Selecting Control Options

Weed Growth

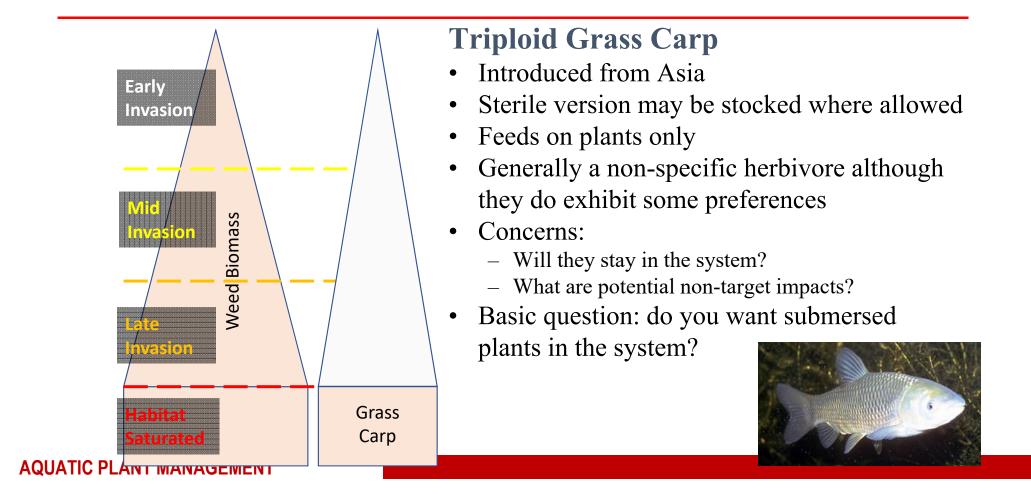
Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



Selecting Control Options

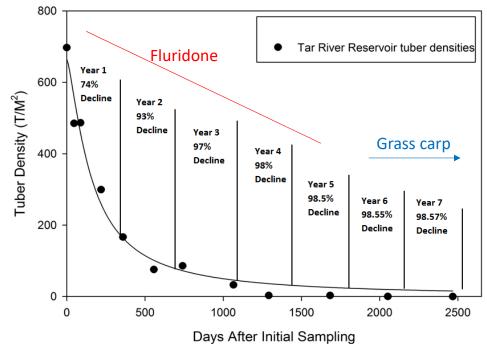
Weed Growth

Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



Triploid Grass Carp

- Regulation is at state level
- Have been used extensively for hydrilla management in SE reservoirs
- Difficult to remove once released
- Potential impacts on water quality
- Tar River Reservoir:
 - Fluridone treated years 1-5
 - 1.5 triploid grass carp per hydrilla tuber bank acre stocked year 6



Tar River Reservoir Tuber Bank Attrition

Figure 4. Observed and predicted decline of the averaged tuber bank density in the Tar River reservoir.

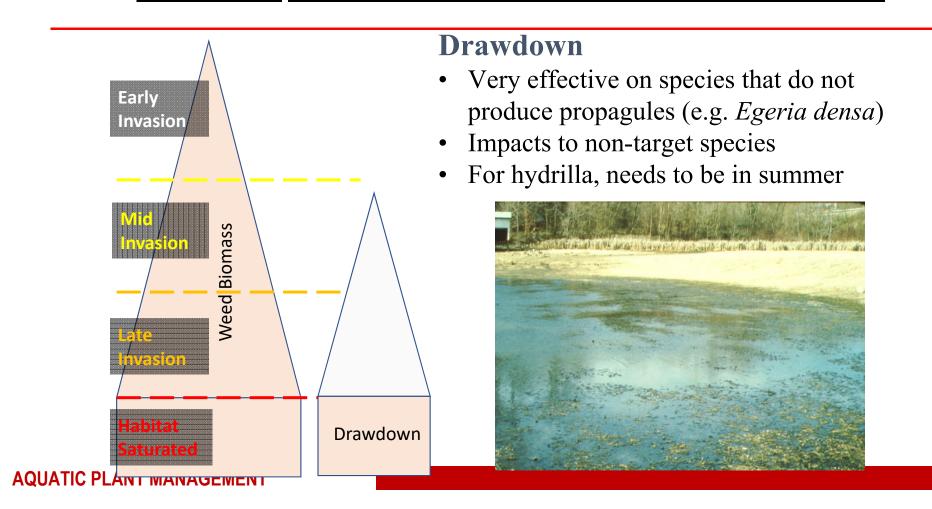
Monitoring Grass Carp Effect



Selecting Control Options

Weed Growth

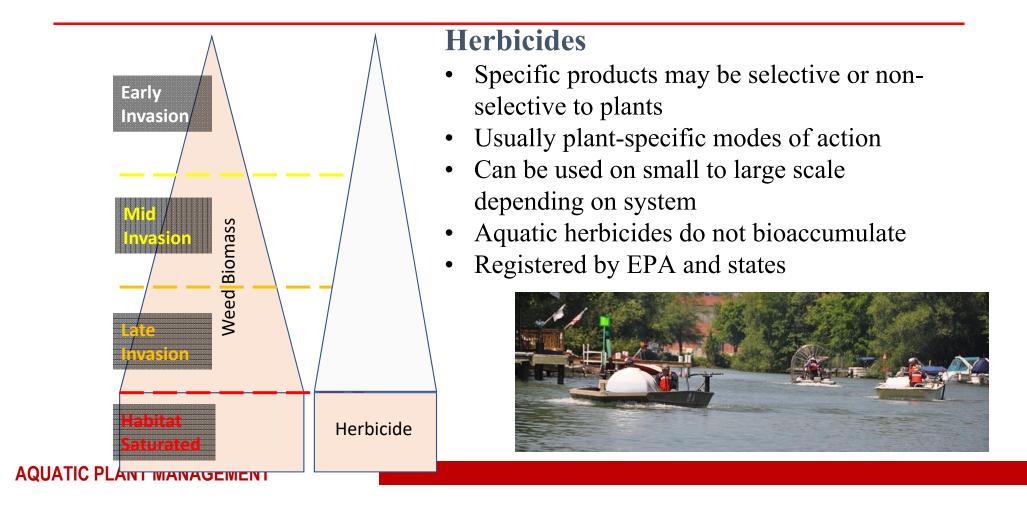
Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



Selecting Control Options

Weed Growth

Control Options for Stage of Weed Growth



Eno River: Monoecious Hydrilla Management

- 44 Miles Long
- Drains into Falls Lake (reservoir)
- Has exceptional water quality
- Home to numerous rare species including the endangered Panhandle Pebble Snail
- Main attraction of 3,900 acre Eno River State Park
- Hydrilla spread raised concern about impact to native species

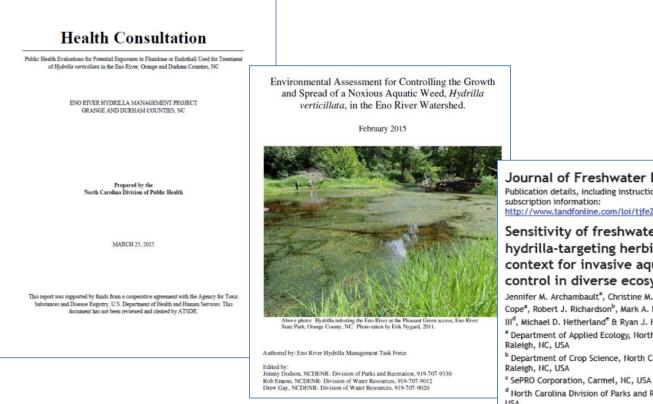




Pre-Management Activities

- Meetings, meetings, meetings....
 - State agency meetings since 2007
 - Plan course forward
- Research:
 - Herbicide impacts to riffleweed (primary native plant)
 - Herbicide impacts to non-plant species
 - Grass carp tagging and monitoring
 - River surveys
- Attempted hand removal failed
- Spot herbicide application failed
- Hydrilla management in nearby impoundments





Public Health and Environmental Assessments for Eno River Hydrilla Management

Journal of Freshwater Ecology Publication details, including instructions for authors and http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tjfe20

Sensitivity of freshwater molluscs to hydrilla-targeting herbicides: providing context for invasive aquatic weed control in diverse ecosystems

Jennifer M. Archambault^a, Christine M. Bergeron^a, W. Gregory Cope^a, Robert J. Richardson^b, Mark A. Heilman^o, J. Edward Corey III^d, Michael D. Netherland^e & Ryan J. Heise^f

^a Department of Applied Ecology, North Carolina State University,

^b Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University,

^d North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, Raleigh, NC, USA

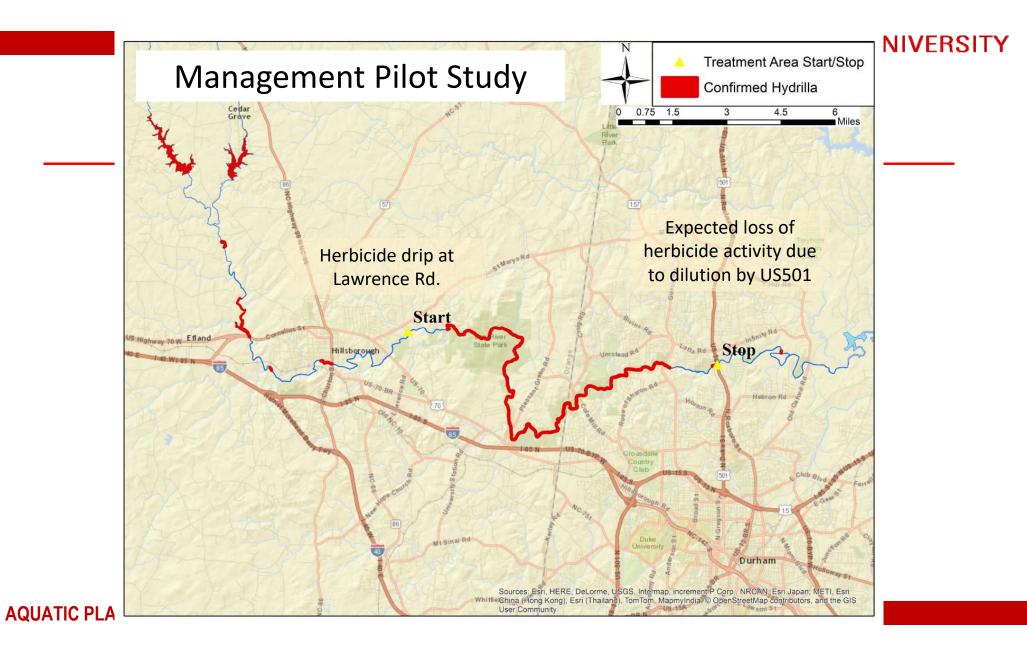
^e U.S. Army ERDC, Gainesville, FL, USA

^f North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA Published online: 08 Aug 2014.

Initial Objectives

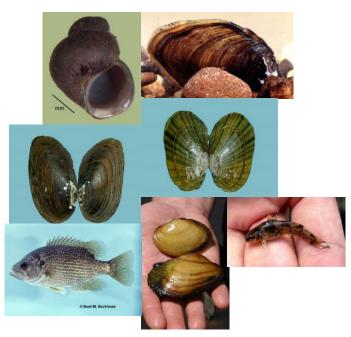
- Goal: Reduce hydrilla biomass in the target area with no impacts to non-target species
- Objectives:
 - Determine effectiveness in controlling hydrilla in highly variable flow Eno River
 - Monitor non-target species for any impacts
- What is success?
 - Reduction of hydrilla biomass to non-problematic levels
 - Reduction of hydrilla turion bank is even better
- Evaluate plan annually to determine future efforts





Monitoring of Study

- Herbicide concentration
 - Monitored weekly/biweekly
 - Sample sites
 - Adjacent to injection site, midpoint, downstream
- Biotic monitoring
 - NCSU: Hydrilla phenology, tuber density, riffleweed abundance
 - NCWRC: Sport fish, Roanoke bass, mussel, crayfish
 - Sample sites inside and outside treatment area
 - Fall vegetation (hydrilla) survey by state and local agency personnel



Treatment History

2015

- First year of demonstration program
- 16 miles treated with one Sonar Genesis injector
- Successful treatment (i.e. hydrilla vegetation was controlled)

2016

- Same mileage treated, but with two injectors to increase control of treatment concentrations
- NCSU measured reduced tuber bank in treatment area

2017

• First year of operational management stretching 22 miles of the Eno River (Lake Ben Johnson to Roxboro Rd, Durham)

2018

- Fourth year of successful treatment same river stretch as 2017
- NCSU found some hydrilla vegetation and tubers in the upper portion of the treatment zone during winter that had only two years of treatment
- No hydrilla observed in area treated for 4 years

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

2019

 Management area will focused on the upper portion of the treatment area starting immediately below Lake Ben Johnson with one injector

2020

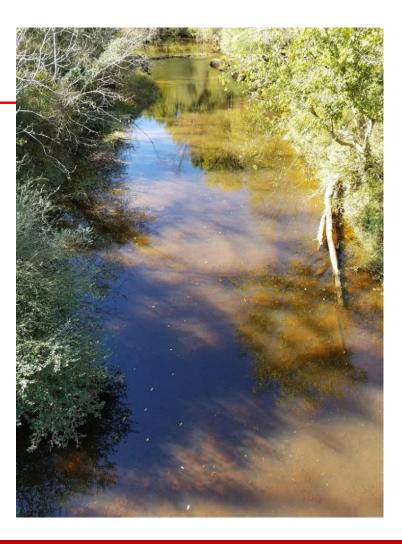
• No treatment due to very low hydrilla populations



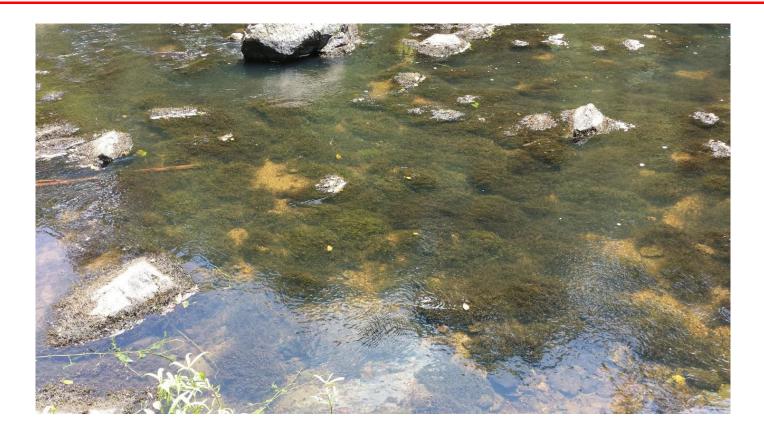
August conditions at Pleasant Green: 2011 before management (top) and 2016 post two years of treatment (bottom)



Hillsborough: before and after treatment



Native, Desirable Riffleweed



Eno Conclusions

- Hydrilla has been successfully controlled within the treatment area
- No negative impacts to non-plants have been observed
- No negative impact to native riffleweed was observed
- Transient chlorosis on native and common American waterwillow was observed in first year of treatment
- Treatment has been moved upstream



Presentation Summary

- Monoecious hydrilla is highly invasive and has numerous characteristics that give it a competitive advantage
- Management programs must be designed to interfere with the tuber bank
- Multiple management techniques are available; the "best" tool will depend on site parameters, human dimensions, and plant biology
- Hydrilla populations can be depleted over time, but programs must be designed for the long-term





Hydrilla Management and Human Dimensions – How Social, Cultural, and Economic Drivers Influence Regional Invasive Aquatic Plant Management

Brett Hartis, PhD Lead Scientist - Aquatic Plant Management Program

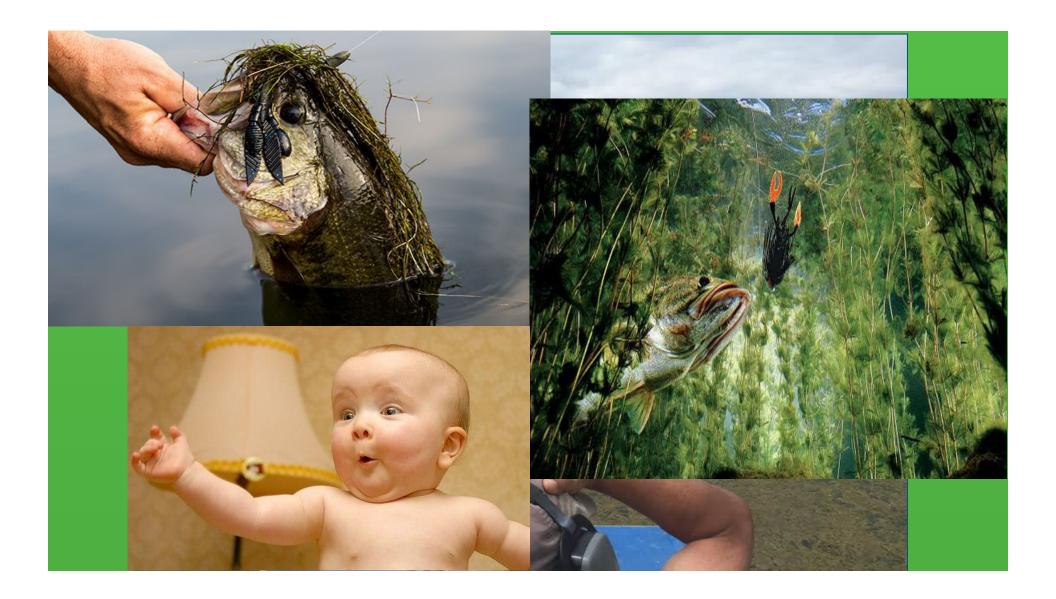


Remember to Manage People When You Manage Plants....

Brett Hartis, PhD Lead Scientist - Aquatic Plant Management Program









A Tale of Two Rivers...

Tennessee River System





Early Management Practices

Tennessee River System

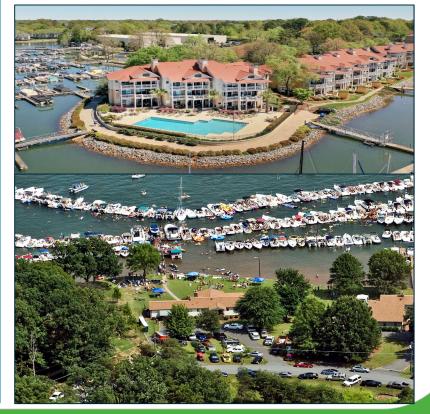




Economic Evolution

Tennessee River System





The "Loudest Voice"

Tennessee River System

Chattanooga Fishermen Gear Up for Milfoil Battle (Again)

Thursday, February 3, 2011 - by Richard Simms

Some Chattanooga area anglers are up-in-arms and organizing a meeting to plan strategy for another meeting.

On Feb. 24 TVA will host a meeting of the Chickamauga Stakeholders Group. Until recently, this was an annual meeting held by TVA. The stakeholders group includes a cross-section of lakeshore landowners, fishermen, businesses and government representatives. It is an opportunity for the various factions to raise questions and provide input on various lake management issues. With few exceptions the focus is almost always on aquatic vegetation management.

By

OUTDOORS	
Anglers p a protest	
From staff reports A convoy of bass boats and con- cerned bass fishermen will form a	■ THE FAYETTE Bass Club held a tournament last week on the Ten- nessee River. A total of 60 fish were reeled in for a total weight of 87

The big fish in the 19-boat compe-

vidual stringer was weighed by

at 9-5. Third place went to Hanking

ADRIAN SUAREZ and Brian

and Wayne Sudduth for six fish at 9-

protest parade on Saturday in an pounds, 8 ounces.

the build of the tender of the tender of the build of the tender of tender of

poison until every non-toxic me-chanical harvesting method is ex- May and Spooney Wicks for 10 fish

2

Scottsboro Shopping Plaza prior to 9 Kemp claimed first place in last

effort to stop the use of toxic chemi-

Bass anglers interested in joining

the Scottsboro-to-Guntersville pro-

test convoy will assemble at the

Lake Guntersville.

hausted.

Funeral Michelle Williams	held	for	Tenn	essee	River	
Michelle Williams	in the	water, which	can snag boats	more than 25	fishing clubs, Sharp	l

Associated Press and skiers. TVA says it is spraying said. CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - About less than it has in years, but some TVA met with Cross and Sharp control will always be needed. again last week to discuss ways to 700 anglers led a funeral dirge Sat-Angler Harold Sharp said he and control water vegetation. Cross said urday through downtown Chattanooga near the banks of the Ten- Chattanooga Bass Association Presnessee River, which they say has ident Ken Cross organized the river of TVA's aquatic biology programs been killed by TVA pesticide sprayfuneral after a meeting between TVA tried to strike a bargain. officials and anglers last month "He said 'if we (TVA) don't spray A hearse pulling a boat led the ended in a stalemate. on Chickamauga Lake, will you call ron holding a fishing rod and funeral but they wont. We're tired of talking, off the protest?' We said no. We said we wanted them to stop spraying on wreaths. A banner draped across so we decided to take action," Sharp all the river, but he said he couldn't read: "The Beautiful Tennessee River said. agree to that." Cross said. More than 680 decorated boats _ Dead From Over Poisoning." Jones could not be reached for "We'll upset TVA's apple cart with were pulled by trucks along the dirge comment Saturday. this," said John Jones, who owns a route - which included a pass by tackle shop near Chattanooga, "If TVA's office complex downtown. Sham said anglers want peopl they weren't listening before, they're One group strapped a small aluminum boat on the hood of their car. Wildhife Resources Agency, the fedlistening now." Anglers contend pesticide spraying Inside the boat were two fishermen eral Environmental Protection by the Tennessee Valley Authority is wearing gas masks and heavy coats. Agency and the state Health De-

killing plant and fish life in the Ten-Slogans on banners read: "They partment to evaluate whether pesti-

praving is having an effect on





Tennessee River System





Tennessee River System

 Head Cook, Maid, Shopper, Lender, Critic, Social worker, Manager, Plumer, organizer, lawncare, processor, auto inspector, at Self-Employed

Why do private land owners around lakes, rivers think, they come in build docks out over the waters and bam, they own the lake, fisherman buy licenses that money goes to conservation efforts on our water ways. Grass is essential for growth and heath of our fisheries. These herbicides will take fish that weigh five pounds and within days it becomes two pounds. These herbicides make fish sick, they want eat, they loose weight and die. Yet the land owners(not all of them) the marina owners dictate what is and isn't ok. I know at Hall's Bar, they have their own private herbicide tank mounted on a pontoon boat, the keep it sprayed all summer long. How it that ok. Marina's do not own the water They just keep expanding, keep killing, Wonder how tva would feel if fisherman just stopped buying license, What is going to happen if large Bass clubs stop fishing the lake in this area. This stuff kills the larger fish we as fisherman see it all the time. Hey ASPCA where are you, these animals are dying too. TVA and private owners, you spray making fish sick, we catch the fish, our kids eat the fish, If our family get sick, do we send you and private owners the bill?

Reply ' Like ' Follow Post ' August 2, 2014 at 7:29am

Chattanooga State Community College

The Herbicides Poison, its amazing that we allow that crap in our drinking water. Reply ' Like ' Follow Post ' July 27, 2014 at 2:31pm

Twin Springs High School

Spraying hydrilia

Reply · Like · Follow Post · May 9, 2014 at 5:20am



Catawba River System

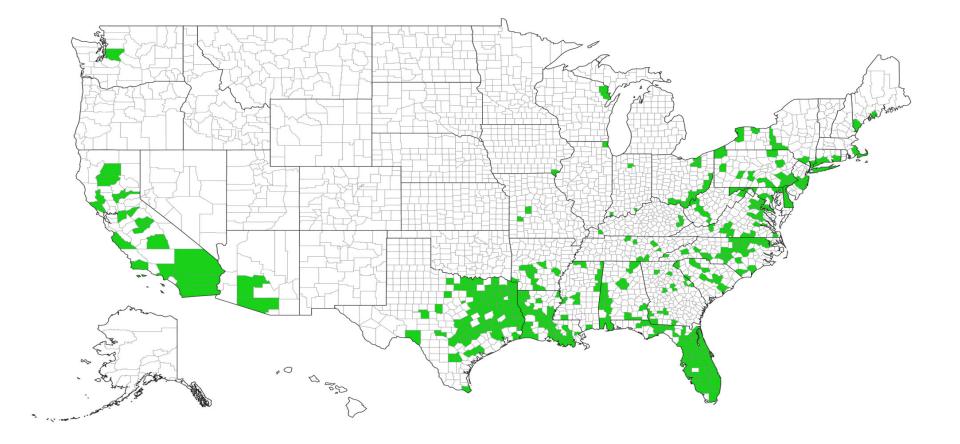


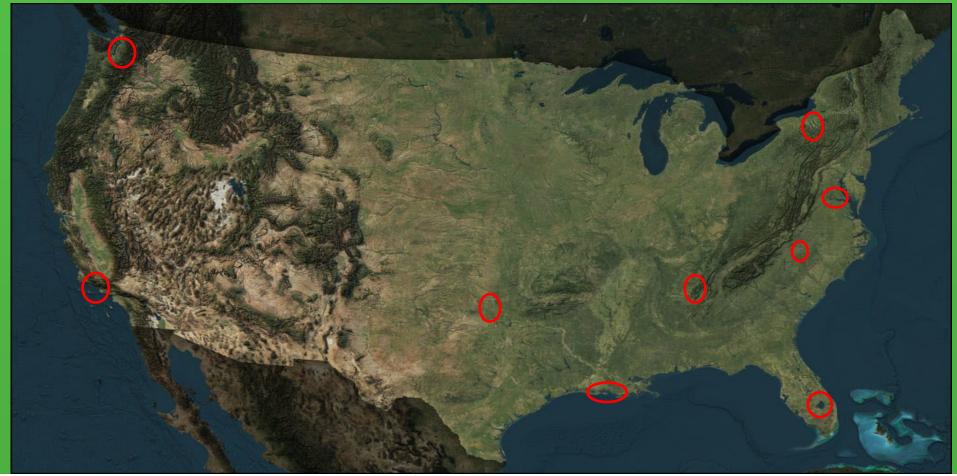
1 day ago

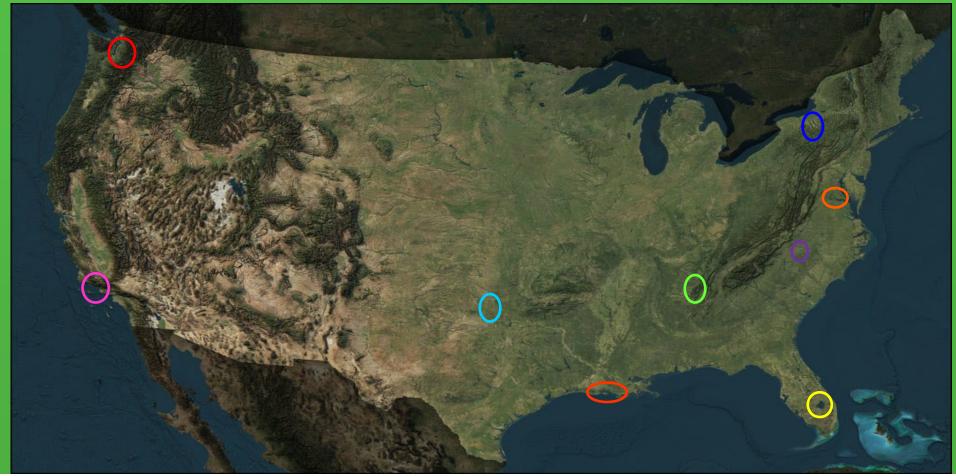
We bought sterile grass eating carp at the Co-op to eat our duck weed!!











The Inconvenient Truth

□ Management <u>IS</u> necessary for <u>ALL</u> uses

Cost and control

No control alternative? - not sustainable
 Maintenance control vs. EDRR/Eradication

□ So how do you fund?

□ Suitable (not easy) alternatives

- Habitat vs. hydrilla
- **Revegetation**
- Artificial habitat

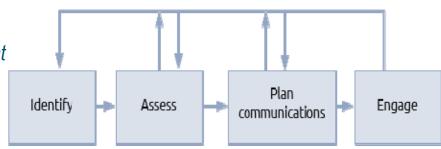




The Future of Aquatic Plant Management

Stakeholder Driven Management

- □ *Multi-use* = *Multi-needs*
- □ Incorporating all vested interests into management
- Providing a "real" seat at the table
- □ Finding common ground ("room for grey")
- □ <u>Reasonable</u> compromise

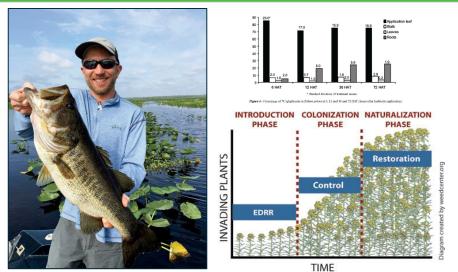


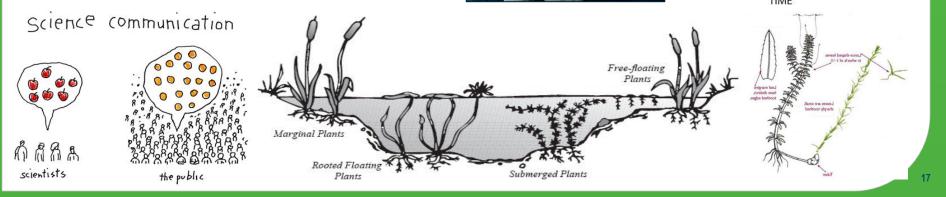
- Being consistent AND transparent
 - □ Telling our story goals and objectives
 - Proactive vs. Reactive
 - Perception vs. Reality...
 - □ Improve and enhance critical relationships
 - □ Informed stakeholders = Informed management



Improve Existing Relationships

- Transparent with program goals and objectives
- Inviting of input and feedback
- Avoid "one-size-fits-all" discussion
 Different Groups, often competing goals
 Varying degrees of understanding
 Tailor messaging to fit Why should they care?





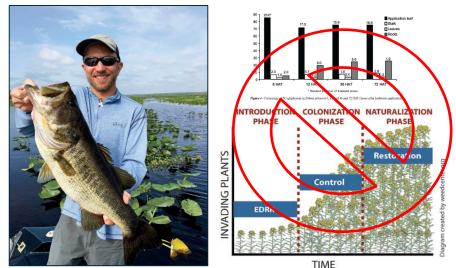
Improve Existing Relationships

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 - □ Varying degrees of understanding

Share this page 13

Managing Aduatic Plants

□ Tailor messaging to fit – Why should they care?



Angler's Aquatic Plant ID

ant to be a better fisherman? Learr

and Floating Leaf Plants



Q&A: Grass and bass on Guntersville



Aquatic Plant Management Program wille, site of this week's Bassmaster Elite Series event, is v

1 Ilia Share



Bass in the Grass Tips on Fishing Aquatic Vegetation

The Media...

Florida's war on weeds is killing fish and supercharging red tide, opponents say

By Bill Weir and Shelby Rose, CNN Updated 2:35 PM ET, Fri February 7, 2020

Lake Okeechobee, Florida (CNN) — On any given day, helicopters and an armada of airboats fan out across Florida's fresh waters to spray tank after tank of poison. Without the millions of gallons of herbicide poured into rivers and lakes, officials say, the state would be choked with weeds.

But a growing chorus of fishermen and hunters, naturalists and activists disagree.

They are convinced that what started as sensible navigation and ficturned into a million-dollar-a-month chemical addiction that is killing natural state.



Polated Content: CNN Clim

To gather evidence, a home builde named Mike Knepper has spent ov chasing spray boats with a camera modern-day David taking aim at a

When he captures a state contract weed killer on live birds or baby alli illegally blowing herbicide across v



in Russian and City of

August 25 - Dayton, TN - 📀

Folks animals are dieing, is it possible our water quality is not good,,, question, is it



🖒 Like 🗘 Comment 🖨 Share



Proactively Telling Our Story



 \checkmark

Q

Liked by weedsciaqua and 12 others

apmsociety "It's just another #MimicMonday 🥂

#Torpedograss (Panicum repens) is an exotic plant, native to Africa/Asia. It was introduced to the USA in

 (\pm)

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Tennessee Valley Authority 🥝 M July 7 · 🚱

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 \heartsuit

Check out this cool 360° video! Our aquatic plant specialist uses airboats to survey and collect data on the distribution of aquatic plants in the reservoirs. Recent warm winters and dry, hot summers have helped aquatic plants grow at record rates in the past few years. Aquatic plants are a good thing in some cases, providing valuable habitat for certain species of fish and wildlife. On the other hand, nuisance vegetation can impede access to reservoirs by the millions who live in and visit the valley each year. To strike a balance between the two, we only manage vegetation in select public access areas like public boat ramps, fishing piers, and swim beaches. Learn more: http://tva.me/MOFh30dpJ29

They go by different names: "weeds," "grass," or "moss." Whatever you call them, aquatic plants are an integral part of the Tennessee River's ecosystem, whether providing nutrients for species at the bottom of the food chain, or cover and ambush areas for bass.

> The benefits of each species are unique despite the similarity in appearance, and understanding them can give you the advantage Whether you prefer to punch a jig, burn a lipless crankbait or fish a frog, this guide to aquatic plants in the Tennessee Valley can help you be the best angler you can be





BETTER



Events

Photos



B

Videos

Co

...

Lake Waccamaw has been bombarded with threats over the years-rising waters, algal blooms, excess nutrients, etc.-but the invasive plant hydrilla is finally under control.

Find out more from our collaboration with the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media





People of Influence/Trusted Sources



Training Future Stakeholders



002

What we can do....

Be proactive and transparent in delivering our story

- What/ Why/ How/ When we manage
- Provide targeted education and outreach opportunities (workshop, ride-along)
- Be open and inviting of input from all user groups
 - Facilitate active discussion (finding common ground)
 - Remain adaptive to changing needs
 - Be inclusive in decision making processes



- Social/ economic consideration
- Hear and act on concerns
- Use eachother as a resource







What you can do....

- Proactively utilize those in APM as a resource for good information
 - Take advantage of opportunities to learn
 - Partner to meet goals and objectives of multi-user groups
 - Serve as a conduit for information transfer
 - Take your seat at the table and remain adaptive to drive decisions
- "People of Influence" = YOU



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