



Bothered by Unsightly Plant Growth in the Lake?

Aquatic plants provide many lake benefits, such as erosion control, and food and cover for aquatic life. Excessive plant growth, however, can result in foul smells and negative impacts on fishing, swimming and boating.

Simple actions taken by property owners can reduce aquatic plant growth by decreasing sediment and nutrients from entering lakes and streams. This will improve fishing, swimming, and other forms of lake recreation.

- ❖ Install a buffer strip by planting trees, shrubs, and other vegetation along the shoreline to reduce the flow of sediment and nutrients into the waterbody.
- ❖ Use no-phosphorus fertilizer and carefully follow the application rates found on the bag. Never apply fertilizer before a rainstorm.
- ❖ Reduce the spread of invasive plants by thoroughly rinsing your boat before transporting it to another lake. Carefully remove all plants and animals from your boat, motor, and trailer.
- ❖ Learn how to identify invasive plants and remove them from the lake. If you locate potential new invasives, report them immediately to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation or Onondaga County Cooperative Extension office.
- ❖ Control soil erosion and stormwater runoff at construction sites.
- ❖ Prevent animal waste from entering the lake. Discourage geese by planting a shoreline buffer strip. Flush dog waste down the toilet or bury it away from the waterfront.
- ❖ Improve soil infiltration by replacing impervious surfaces (such as paved driveways, streets, and parking lots) with porous pavement and water gardens.
- ❖ Encourage municipal highway departments to maintain vegetated road ditches, hydroseed ditches immediately after they are cleared, and install sediment traps for stormwater runoff.
- ❖ Cover piles of soil, sand, and mulch in your yard to prevent erosion from wind and rain.
- ❖ Take an active role in lake management by attending workshops and plant control activities.

Information will be available at the following events:

July 28, 2009 – Oneida Lake water chestnut hand pulling workshop (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, 424-9485 ext 233)

September 16, 2009 - Aquatic Plant Management Conference at Borio's Restaurant in Cicero (CNY RPDB, 422-8276 ext 206)