

EWM Question & Answer #5

We Have EWM Around Our Dock. What Can We Do?



Residents can manually clear up to 2,500 square feet (50 x 50) without needing to get a permit from the DNR. Pulling the plants would likely be the most effective, but cutting may be easier.



Gather, remove and dispose of the plants. Allowing them to float away is inconsiderate and illegal.

Please be sure to report EWM infestations to BLIA on the Fall Resident Survey or at Hansen's or by emailing ericksonpaulsue@aol.com.

What Herbicide Do We Use?

Granular 2,4-D. The same chemical that has been used in broadleaf weed killers for lawns.

Although it's being evaluated and considered, the Minnesota DNR doesn't normally approve the use of Sonar.

Sonar would kill the native Northern Milfoil. Although that may sound like a positive, keep in mind that when weeds are killed, other weeds take over. To read an alarming story about Curly Leaf Pondweed, visit the Serpent Lake Association website. (There is a link on our Home Page.) Curly Leaf Pondweed exists in Bay Lake.

Why Don't We Use Sonar? They Use It In Michigan.

Our Containment Strategy Is OK, But Why Don't We Get More Aggressive? Residents Would Contribute More To Get Rid Of EWM.

There is no evidence that EWM can be eradicated from a large and irregularly shaped lake.....but that doesn't mean that a more aggressive strategy shouldn't be considered.

In 2005, BLIA and the DNR jointly developed the first Bay Lake Aquatic Management Plan. It was a 5 year plan covering 2005-2010. Work will soon be underway to update the plan.

Bay Lake was one of the first lakes to develop an official (DNR Approved) Aquatic Management Plan and working with the DNR was beneficial. For example it resulted in a significantly streamlined process for obtaining treatment permits and it allows us to get 3 Year Authorizations (vs. 1 Year on other lakes).

Exploring alternative strategies will be a primary objective when we work with the DNR to update our plan.

But, in the meantime, here is a more direct response to the question:

-There is no evidence that a more aggressive strategy would have the desired outcome.

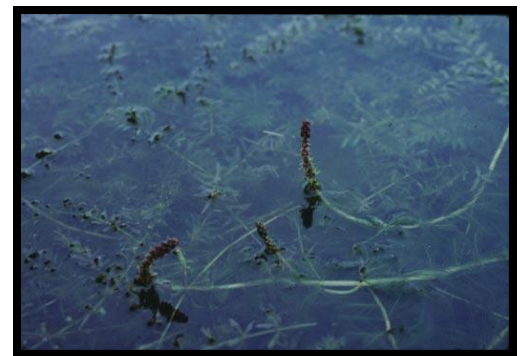
-We currently treat about 130 acres at an overall cost of about \$130,000 per year. They are the highest priority sites. A substantially more aggressive strategy would at least triple the acreage and cost.

-Because it wouldn't eradicate EWM, yearly monitoring and treatment would continue (likely at an increasing level as infestations got re-established).

-Drastically increasing the amount of chemical going into the lake at one time could be a negative.

-It's not currently allowed.

-Our EWM treatment expenditures already exceed our Environmental Fund donations.



To learn more about EWM, our treatment strategy and how we could lose the fight, visit BayLake.com weekly. The series will last through September. And, please remember to send in your questions to ericksonpaulsue@aol.com.