



LAKES, WEEDS AND WATER IN SUMMER

Lake and Shoreline Aquatic Plant Management



With the warmer weather, longer days, and frequent rains that arrive during South Florida's summer season, aquatic plants and algae tend to grow rapidly.

To control this growth and the conditions it can create, the City has a routine maintenance program which allows for approximately four herbicide treatments* each year for all lake shorelines. This frequency of treatment keeps most areas in good condition the majority of the year.

However, during the summer months certain areas may outpace the treatment program. As a result, some shorelines and lakes will periodically have an increased presence of weeds and algae. The City must manage treatment carefully, to ensure water quality is not adversely affected (violations of water quality standards can quickly occur if too much plant/algae growth is treated at one time). In addition, some of the heavy growth is the result of normal, healthy plant growth and water quality, while other conditions indicate an existing ecological imbalance which must be managed carefully and in stages to avoid dissolved oxygen-related fish kills, plant decay odors, or other undesirable outcomes.

For this reason, the City uses Environmental Consultants to help monitor shoreline treatment progress and the health of these treated waterways. It is a carefully orchestrated balance.





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In order to help us in our efforts to control this emergent plant and algae growth around the City, there are two critical steps which homeowners can take to dramatically reduce the growth of weedy vegetation and algae adjacent to residential properties:

1. Avoid or limit the use of fertilizer on your waterfront lawn. Apply fertilizers no closer than five feet from the water's edge, and only use a designed no/low-phosphorus variety when fertilizer is needed. Since our weedy plant and algae species react quickly to increased phosphorus levels in the water, this will minimize the effect of "fertilizing the weeds" via runoff from the lawn.

2. Ensure landscape maintenance crews avoid placing or disposing of any lawn clippings or other vegetation in the waterways. Lawn clippings act like fertilizer for weed growth and can often contain seeds of many weedy, undesirable plants. These two simple steps are absolutely essential to ensuring clean, healthy waterways and shorelines throughout the City. Please do your part to help keep our lakes clean and healthy!

You may also obtain native flowering wetland plants from a local nursery and plant them in and near the weedy areas to help improve water quality and discourage future weed growth. These native plants can be very pretty with bright flowers ranging from blue and purple to red and yellow. Some good examples are blue iris, spider lilies, and yellow canna. If you would like additional suggestions for plantings or have questions on where to obtain these plants, please feel free to contact the City's Public Works Department at publicworks@westonfl.org or 954-385-2600.

** The herbicide chemicals and application methods utilized by the City are very carefully regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (FDACS), that these chemicals are approved for aquatic use, and that they are not considered toxic to the birds, fish, turtles, or other animals that live alongside us when applied as directed.*