

Pond Weed Problems Can Be Solved!!!!

Here in Oconee County, fishing ponds are scattered all across the county, and many people sure do love what they provide—a nice fishing hole and countless hours of enjoyment. If you have been fishing a lot or you are a pond owner, you probably have noticed something that has probably bothered you about the pond's scenery and fishing experience. This could be because of aquatic weeds or because of a grungy algae that can take over your pond and make your fishing experience one to forget. Pond management is very important, and one problem in particular that causes a lot of problems is aquatic weeds. Over the past couple of months, I have seen quite a few problems with aquatic weeds in ponds. If you don't do something to address the matter, infestation of weeds in your pond will continue and get worse. "So what am I to do?" you ask. Well, the best thing to do is to identify the weed or weeds and get a proper recommendation for a herbicide treatment. However, good pond management that first and foremost addresses fertilization and liming will certainly reduce weeds in your pond. Here at Oconee County Cooperative Extension, we are more than happy to come out and visit your pond and give a professional recommendation.

In this week's article, pond owners need to understand that aquatic weeds are divided into four categories: algae, floating weeds, immersed weeds, and submersed weeds. Control measures differ for each group, and proper identification of the plant is necessary before the correct control measure can be selected. As for algae, a common treatment that works very well is the use of copper sulfate and copper based compounds. Other aquatic weeds need a herbicide treatment to do an effective job. Please note that proper care must be adhered to because sometimes people think that more of a chemical is better. This is surely not the case because when you treat an aquatic weed, you must use the correct amounts. If not, then you could potentially cause a fish kill in your pond. Herbicides will reduce the amount of oxygen in the water, so you have to be careful in its use. So be careful with herbicides. If you don't want a chemical control, then I suggest stocking your pond with grass carp. Grass carp work wonders in ponds because they feast on the unwanted weeds that your trouble your pond. Success is very good with grass carp because they continue to weed out the problem. Finally, nothing is more important than fertilizing and liming your pond. In short, fertilizing your pond provides a satisfactory plankton bloom that will not allow sunlight to hit the bottom of your pond. If sunlight hits the bottom of your pond, then this will allow rooted plants to grow. Do not fertilize your pond if you have a weed problem; this will make it worse. Fertilization needs to take place—preferably in February, and after you have treated for aquatic weeds.

Pond management in regards to dealing with aquatic weeds is not hard, but it takes proper and prompt action before the problem gets out of hand. Anglers hate to reel in a bunch of weeds and not fish. Please make your pond's management a top priority so that you and your friends can enjoy your favorite pastime of fishing in your private pond. If you have any questions or concerns about your fish pond, please don't hesitate to call (706) 769-3946 or stop by the Oconee County Cooperative Extension Office at 23 Water St., Watkinsville, GA.