



# Lower Connecticut River Hydrilla Invasion – Herbicide Information

Fact Sheet

February 2025

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## WHY USE HERBICIDES?

The USACE has a long history of studying hydrilla biology and available control methods since the weed's introduction to the US in the 1950s. Hydrilla management is important to protect native ecosystems and to ensure safe boating, recreational, and utility activities. Though mechanical, biological, and physical control options do exist, herbicides remain the most effective, selective, and economic management tool that reliably control hydrilla infestations while minimizing further plant spread.

## Herbicide Safety

- Aquatic herbicides effective at managing hydrilla have undergone rigorous testing and safety approvals by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in aquatic environments.
- Additionally, EPA approved aquatic herbicides require further approval by the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) Pesticide Management Program to ensure safe use compliance.
- Aquatic herbicides can be used to selectively control invasive plants and they do not pose significant safety risks, which means boating and fishing activities may resume immediately following application.

## Environmental Safety

- When an aquatic herbicide is applied to hydrilla-infested waters, it begins to dissipate, dilute, and degrade.
- Following dilution, aquatic herbicide degradation occurs through environmental processes by microbes, sunlight, and/or changes in water chemistry and the herbicide does not persist in the system.
- Aquatic herbicides do not target fish or any other aquatic fauna, and any chemical selected for use does not exhibit any negative



## 2024 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT LOCATIONS

- **Keeney Cove** – Glastonbury & East Hartford, CT
- **Portland Boat Works** – Portland, CT
- **Chapman Pond** – East Haddam, CT
- **Chester Boat Basin** – Chester, CT
- **Selden Cove** – Lyme, CT

## HYDRILLA CONTROL AND MONITORING

Herbicide control methods demonstrated will be closely monitored by USACE to obtain essential information useful for developing future hydrilla control efforts within the Lower Connecticut River system.

Example of dye application simulating herbicide (NCSU)



## If you have further questions on this project, please contact:

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Project StoryMap

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<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>



Project Website