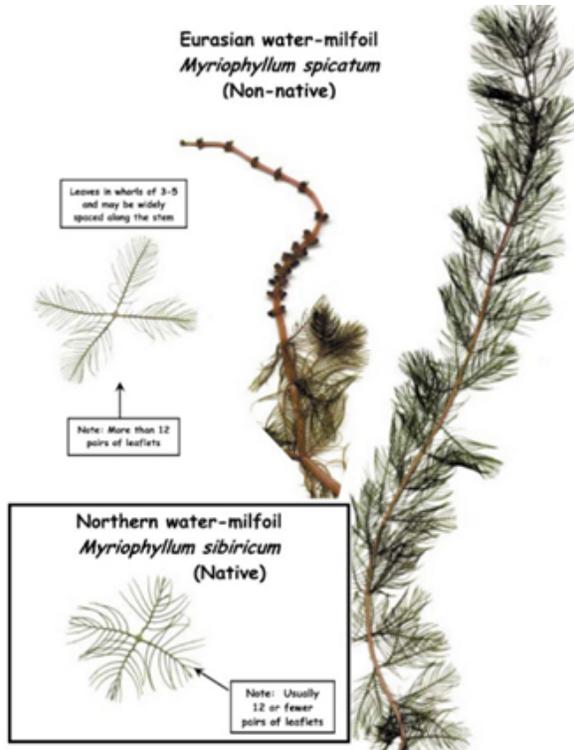


Lake Sawyer Aquatic Vegetation Control Grant - KING COUNTY

Wafa Tafesh, King County Water and Land Resources Division 1/27/2022



In 2021, the City of Black Diamond, with the assistance of King County was awarded an Ecology funded grant to fund implementation of the Lake Sawyer Integrated Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Plan (IAVMP). The IAVMP was written in 2015 by King County Water and Land Resources ecologist, Chris Knutson. The plan, accepted by Washington State Department of Ecology, allowed Lake Sawyer to be eligible to apply for grants for treatment of identified aquatic noxious weeds.

This two-year Lake Sawyer Aquatic Vegetation Control Grant will focus control on two species that cause the most concern in Lake Sawyer: Class B noxious weed [Eurasian water milfoil](#) (a submerged plant) and Class C noxious weed [fragrant water lily](#) (a floating-leaf plant). These are the only floating or submerged aquatic noxious weeds at the lake. All other floating and submerged plants at the lake are native plants.

During discussions with the City of Black Diamond, Lake Sawyer Community members and King County Water and Land Resources employees, a two-year treatment plan was created. The plan includes a year one and year two treatment for both plants, each preceded by a survey to identify density and location of plants to target.

Summary of grant activities include:

- Year 1 survey of the littoral zone (areas of the lake where plants can grow) of Lake Sawyer for Eurasian watermilfoil and fragrant water lily. Completed by King County staff on July 8th, 2021.

- Year 1 herbicide treatment by Aquatechnex (a hired contractor). Eurasian Milfoil will be treated with ProcettaCOR herbicide, Fragrant Water Lilies will be treated with Rodeo or Habitat herbicide and a surfactant. Successfully completed by Aquatechnex on August 23rd, 2021. and September 13th, 2021.

- Year 2 survey of the littoral zone of Lake Sawyer for Eurasian watermilfoil and fragrant water lily. Planned for summer of 2022.

- Year 2 herbicide treatment. Planned for summer of 2022. A map of treatment target areas will be sent to residents prior to treatment.

Please hold off on pulling water lily plants this spring and summer until the herbicide treatment occurs. After the two years of treatment, we will work with homeowners on weed control techniques to ensure long term eradication of water lilies.

The “boot” area of the lake has had an existing herbicide permit. The City of Black Diamond worked with the Department of Ecology to keep the lake and “boot” permits separate for 2021 herbicide treatment. The permit holders for the boot treated the area for milfoil in 2021. The community and the City of Black Diamond will discuss combining permits for treatment this summer.

Nymphaea odorata American water-lily, fragrant water-lily



Image © 2004 Ben Legler

Distribution: Occurring chiefly west of the Cascades crest in Washington; British Columbia to California, east to central and eastern North America, where native.
Habitat: Lowland ponds and lakes.
Flowers: June-October
Origin: Introduced from central and eastern North America
Conservation Status: Not of concern

Description:

General: Aquatic, perennial herbs from thick rhizomes, the leaves and flowers rising from the rhizomes.
Leaves: Leaves floating, the blade deeply cordate, nearly orbicular, up to 25 cm. broad; petioles slender, terete, up to 2 m. long.
Flowers: Flowers solitary, long-pedunculate, showy, white, tinged with pink, fragrant, opening in the morning and closing in the afternoon; sepals 4, greenish, 3-6.5 mm. long; petals white, 20-30, about equaling the sepals; stamens 50-100, yellow; style 1; stigmas 6-9, yellow, broad and spreading.
Fruits: Fruit a berry-like capsule.



Image © 2009 Jenifer Parsons

When will you see the effect of the treatment?

The fragrant water lilies may take about a week to start looking damaged and will probably totally die in about three weeks. Keep in mind that there will be strips of non-sprayed areas in the bigger patches. Two days of treatment are planned for each year to make sure any missed areas are sprayed.

Eurasian milfoil should start to die off within just a few days.

Keep in mind there is a multi-year effort. Another treatment event is being planned for summer of 2022.

No water use restrictions

Prior to treatment, a notice will be sent to residents as well as posted on docks and at all public access areas. There are no restrictions on swimming, eating fish from treated waterbodies, or using water for drinking water. Pets fall under the same water use restrictions for humans.

You must wait 24 hours before treated water can be used for irrigation of residential landscape, gardens, plants or lawns.

If you are withdrawing water for potable or domestic water use, livestock watering, or irrigation, and have no alternate water source, please contact Aquatechnex at 360-527-1271 to arrange an alternate water supply.

Can I remove other aquatic plants myself from my waterfront?

After herbicide treatment has occurred, you can help control Eurasian watermilfoil and fragrant water lilies to help ensure a long-term weed control on the lake after herbicide treatment.

Residents are allowed to removed aquatic plants themselves, including from their waterfront without an herbicide permit if manual techniques are used. You can do hand cutting or removal yourself if you follow the instructions in the WDFW *Aquatic Plants and Fish* pamphlet permit: [Aquatic Plants and Fish: Rules for Aquatic Plant Removal and Control \(2015\) | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

To “obtain” the permit all you need to do is print a copy and have it physically with you when working to remove aquatic plants. There are various restrictions on the kind of tools you can use and area limitations so make sure you read and understand the permit entirely. From the permit, table 1 below summarizes the overall permit requirements. Note that the rules vary depending if the plant is a listed Aquatic Noxious Weed ([Noxious weed lists and laws – King County](#)) or an Aquatic Beneficial Plant (native plants and non-noxious weed non-native plants). Also, aquatic plant control done under the Aquatic Plants and Fish pamphlet permit is only allowed during the “fish window” period. For Lake Sawyer, the allowed work period is July 16 - September 30.

Table 1. Permit Requirements for Aquatic Noxious Weed and Beneficial Plant Removal or Control

Control Method	Aquatic Noxious Weed			Aquatic Beneficial Plants		
	Permit Requirement			Permit Requirement		
	Pamphlet without Area Limitations	Pamphlet with Area Limitations	Individual HPA	Pamphlet without Area Limitations	Pamphlet with Area Limitations	Individual HPA
Removal by Hand	✓				✓	
Bottom Barriers and Screens		✓			✓	
Weed Rolling		✓				✓
Mechanical Harvesting and Cutting	✓					✓
Rotovation			✓			✓
Diver-operated Dredging	✓					✓
Other Dredging			✓			✓
Water Level Manipulation			✓			✓

Milfoil spreads by fragmentation so please pick up all plant parts that break free if you go the hand removal route. And please hold off on pulling water lily plants until the herbicide treatment occurs.

If you have any questions about the Lake Sawyer Aquatic Vegetation Control Grant or would like help identifying aquatic plants you're seeing please contact me at wtafesh@kingcounty.gov or at 206-735-6095.