

Hydrilla Management Program - Cayuga Lake at Aurora, NY



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District is requesting your comments on the proposed Cayuga Lake at Aurora Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project. A copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment can be found at :
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx>

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the USACE-Buffalo District Environmental Analysis Team with any comments regarding the Cayuga Lake at Aurora Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project. Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to:

Buffalo District Environmental Analysis Team

Telephone No.: 800-833-6390, Press 3

E-mail: CayugaLakeHydrillaControlProject@usace.army.mil

Please review the study information and present any comments in writing within fifteen (15) days to the attention of the Buffalo District Environmental Analysis Team to the email address listed above or at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street • Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

Thank you for your interest and review of this project.



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Hydrilla Management Program - Cayuga Lake at Aurora, NY

On September 13, 2016, the invasive plant hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata* L.f. Royle) was discovered growing in the Wells College Bay of Cayuga Lake at Aurora, NY by the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom with Wells College Campus Greens. A local effort began immediately to identify the location and extent of hydrilla growth using divers and tethered rakes. These efforts coupled with a systematic sampling effort conducted by Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists of Ithaca, NY resulted in the identification of an approximately 27 acre area within the Wells College Bay where hydrilla is currently present. In addition, beds or patches of rooted hydrilla were observed at the mouth of Little Creek and in lower sections of Paines Creek, from approximately 1,200-1,500 ft upstream to confluence. A current estimate of overall hydrilla coverage (i.e. condensed abundance) is not available, but the hydrilla beds are expected to be patchy and range from approximately 0 – 18+ ft. depths in an approximately 59 acre total area.

Given the ease with which this plant spreads by fragments, the proximity to the Erie Canal and heavy use of the waterway, this infestation has caused urgent concern regarding spread to other areas of Cayuga Lake, the Erie Canal, and potentially the Great Lakes. Studies have shown that when hydrilla invades a water, ecologically-important native submersed plants such as pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.), tapegrass (*Vallisneria americana*) and coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) are shaded out by hydrilla's thick mats, or are simply outcompeted, and eliminated (van Dijk 1985). Hydrilla seriously interferes with boating, both recreational and commercial, and prevents swimming and fishing; major infestations limit sportfish weight and size (Colle & Shireman 1980). Dense hydrilla infestations can alter water chemistry and oxygen levels (Pesacreata 1988). The purpose of this demonstration project is to field test control methods developed under the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) to manage monoecious hydrilla in high water exchange environments.

References:

- Colle DE, Shireman JV. 1980. Coefficients of condition for largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish in hydrilla-infested lakes. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 109:521-531.
- Johnson, R. L. 2016. Delineation of the Monoecious Hydrilla Discovery in Cayuga Lake at Aurora, NY. Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists, 1185 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. pp. 1-38.
- Pesacreata G. 1988. Water Chemistry from North Carolina Piedmont Impoundments with Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata* (L.f.) Royle). Ph.D. dissertation, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.
- van Dijk G. 1985. Vallisneria and its interactions with other species. Aquatics 7(3):6-10.

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

Date: June 23, 2017

Re: Hydrilla Management Program –Cayuga Lake at Aurora, NY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District has coordinated with the NYSDEC to use the aquatic herbicides Nautique, Komeen Crystal, and Sonar H4C in the summer of 2017 to control Hydrilla in an area of Cayuga Lake adjacent to the Village of Aurora. Initial treatments are expected to begin the week of July 10 or July 17. The Program will be conducted under the supervision of certified aquatic pesticide applicators with the firm SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT, NYSDEC Pesticide Business Registration No.16505. Public access points along the lakeshore will be posted at the time of the treatment indicating applicable water use restrictions. The water use restrictions listed below are in effect for the duration of the treatment and until the times listed have been reached, or testing has determined that the threshold has been met.

Water use restrictions are as follows:

Product	Irrigation – Row crops, turf, trees or plants	Irrigation – Newly seeded areas, including overseeded golf course greens	Irrigation – Nursery, Greenhouse, Hydroponics	Drinking, culinary or food processing purposes
Nautique	None	None	None	< 200 ppb*
Komeen Crystal	None	None	None	< 200 ppb*
Sonar H4C	7 days	Fastest required	< 1ppb	< 50 ppb*

* Applications of these products will be below the listed thresholds.

The product labels are available for review on Solitude Lake Management's website <http://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/product-labels-new-york-2017>.

If you wish further information about the proposed management program or need hard copies of the product labels, please contact Glenn Sullivan (gsullivan@solitudelake.com) or Brad Bowers, SOLitude Lake Management at 607-433-2484 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Mon - Fri.

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