

City of Winter Park
Lakes (General)
1976

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An Edition Of The Orlando Sentinel Star

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Sunday, January 4, 1976

W.P. Sentinel 1/4/76

Weed-Killer Treatments To Start In Winter Park

By JON RODEHEFFER

Sentinel Star Staff

WINTER PARK — Application of weed-killer to Winter Park's lakes to combat the spread of hydrilla begins tomorrow with Lake Maitland if the weather is right, according to Joseph W. Frye, chief of the city's lake management division.

The herbicide will be used three times a year: in January and February, in April and May, and in September and October.

CITY MANAGER Robert D. Proctor has ended the sending of written notices to homeowners

effective Feb. 2.

Instead, orange pennants on six-foot poles will be placed along the shoreline two days before the weedkiller is to be applied. The pennants will be taken down again five days after the application to show that the water is again safe for swimming and lawn-watering.

Proctor also recommends that if a pennant disappears, homeowners should check their neighbor's shoreline for pennants to be sure the flags have not been taken by vandals.

THE LAKES will be treated with hydrothol, using the city's

airboat, along the shore and with a combination of diquat and copper complex spread from a barge in deeper water.

Frye said neither chemical remains in the water for an extended period but that lakefront residents are warned about the treatments as a precaution "to be on the safe side."

The city has budgeted \$60,000 for treatment of the lakes this year and a state grant for that amount has received preliminary approval.

AQUATIC WEED treatments in Maitland have been suspended since Nov. 22 when the water

temperature dipped below 68 degrees.

Temperatures below 68 degrees retard chemical reactions that kill the hydrilla. The water temperature is a critical factor in treating aquatic weeds, according to the manufacturer of the herbicide used in Maitland and Don Wiedman, aquatic botanist for the state Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The water temperature is not critical with the Winter Park chemicals, according to Frye.

Before the suspension of Maitland treatments, 45 lake acres were treated in Lakes Maitland, Minnehaha and Sybelia.