



# Correcting Pond Weediness - First Steps

**EXTENSION**

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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets  
are also available on our website at:  
[osufacts.okstate.edu](http://osufacts.okstate.edu)

## Introduction

Each pond is different and pond owners have different objectives. These things must be known and considered so that a good weed management plan can be made. Help your county Extension educator develop that plan by assisting with these eight areas.

## First Steps

### 1. Eyes on the Pond

If a site visit from your county Extension educator is not possible, please provide the following images or samples.

- Photos of the pond
- Photos of the surrounding area that drains to the pond.
- A good close-up photo of the problem plant.
  - Take one or two plants from the pond and lay against a light-colored background.
  - Arrange to show as many characteristics as practical (leaf shape and arrangement, stem, roots, flowers, "buds" or any similar features).
  - Take the photo from about 12 inches away.
  - Include a coin, pen or ruler.
  - An alternative is a fresh plant sample delivered to your Extension educator.
    - Place your sample in a sealed plastic bag with a moist paper towel.
    - Keep it cool.

### 2. History of the Weed Problem

How long has the pond had excess plant coverage?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What has been tried to manage pond weeds and what were the results?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. More About the Pond and Surrounding Area

Pond size:  
\_\_\_\_\_ acres or \_\_\_\_\_ square feet

Percentage of pond that is less than 3 1/2 feet \_\_\_\_\_

Age of the pond? \_\_\_\_\_

What percentage of the pond is covered or filled by plants? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a layer of organic matter on the pond bottom with a rotten egg smell when stirred? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other aquatic plants in the pond beside the problem plant or algae? \_\_\_\_\_

If there are no other pond plants, is the reason known?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have pond plants been eliminated with herbicides?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any of the following problems in the area that drains to the pond (the watershed)?

- Animal manure runoff \_\_\_\_\_
- Chemical fertilizer runoff \_\_\_\_\_
- Heavy leaf fall \_\_\_\_\_
- Large numbers of livestock \_\_\_\_\_
- Areas of eroding soil \_\_\_\_\_ (sediment can create shallow areas prone to emergent weeds)

### 4. Are Herbicides Acceptable? \_\_\_\_\_

List any concerns about herbicides:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. How is the Pond Used?**

Herbicides often have withdrawal times for certain pond uses. These uses may narrow the choice of herbicides.

Pond is used for....

Livestock \_\_\_\_\_ (type: \_\_\_\_\_ number: \_\_\_\_\_ )

Fishing \_\_\_\_\_

Swimming \_\_\_\_\_

Irrigation \_\_\_\_\_

Household water use \_\_\_\_\_

Other objectives:

Attractive appearance \_\_\_\_\_

If important, are some pond plants acceptable? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Surrounding Areas**

Are there ponds, creeks or aquatic areas below the pond overflow point? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, extra care may be needed to reduce the chance of the pond overflowing soon after a herbicide application.

Describe (if any):

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Risk of contaminating groundwater with a pond herbicide application.**

Does the pond fill from the bottom up? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the depth to groundwater? \_\_\_\_\_

(Depth of water wells may be an indication)

**8. Applications**

Is there someone able to do herbicide applications? \_\_\_\_\_

Being able to apply herbicides takes into account three things:

1. Physically able to do the application \_\_\_\_\_
2. Suitable application equipment available  
Boat \_\_\_\_\_  
Sprayer \_\_\_\_\_ (distance it can reach: \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Granule spreader \_\_\_\_\_  
(distance it can reach: \_\_\_\_\_ )
3. Familiar with calculating application rates and calibrating the application equipment \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ask for help, if needed)

Herbicides are not effective in the long-term. Additional management steps will usually be included in the weed management plan your county Extension educator develops.

When using pond herbicides, there are precautions you need to understand – see Aquatic Herbicides: Essential Information for New Applicators (<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/aquatic-herbicides-essential-information-for-new-applicators.html>)

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