



Correcting Pond Weediness - First Steps

EXTENSION

September 2023

Marley Beem
Extension Specialist for Aquaculture

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets
are also available on our website at:
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>)

Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eeo.okstate.edu>.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 20 cents per copy. September 2023 KG.