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Do you have weeds growing in your pond?

Would you like to know how to get rid of the weeds?

Then the Clemson Extension Office in your County can help!

If you own a pond you understand the severity in which pond weeds can rapidly establish in still water conditions. Throughout the Southeast local, state, and federal governments spend millions of dollars each year controlling aquatic weeds in public water ways. Aquatic weeds are capable of forming very dense mats that are so thick that boat engines are choked down and unable to traverse waterways.

In Chester and surrounding counties there are several weeds that we commonly see during the growing season in ponds. Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) are the most common submerged weed, followed closely by Naiads (*Najas* spp.). These weeds are entirely underwater and form very dense mats that can make canoeing and fishing impossible. On the surface of the ponds we typically find several different forms of algae. Typically, we see filamentous algae which forms bright to dark green net-like mats. These mats may be well over an acre in size and more than 1 foot thick. Other plants that we commonly see in ponds are rooted on the bottom of the pond and emerge through the water surface. Plants like Parrot-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) typically occur in

shallow water particularly near the bank. Parrot-feather may form dense mats like the other plants, and thus hinder the ability to fish, canoe, and other activities.

Aquatic weeds can be controlled with a variety of means. Weeds can be manually removed from the pond using a rake or chain. They can be controlled using tri-ploid grass carp or through the use of herbicides. Effective aquatic weed control programs typically incorporate several or all of these methods. The use of herbicides to control aquatic weeds is commonly used because it offers a fast removal of weeds and very little labor. Before using an herbicide, it is important to identify the plant species that is growing in the pond. Several aquatic weed identification books are available to help pinpoint the species that you have. You can also search the internet to find the identity of many of the common species. Another way is to bring a sample into the local Clemson Extension office. If you bring a sample into the office please keep the plant in a jar or cooler filled with water. This protects the plant and makes it easier for us to identify. Once you have a positive identification of the plant you can select and apply an herbicide that is labeled to treat that particular species. This is another area where Clemson Extension can help.

As you begin to take control of the weeds in your pond there are a few things to remember. Always get proper identification of the weeds you are trying to treat. Never use a product that is not labeled for treating the weed species that you have. You should always read the herbicide label and follow the directions. Using a combination of weed control methods offers the greatest success for weed control. Finally, give your Clemson Extension agent a call. We can help with any pond questions that you may have.

For more information on pond weeds in Chester County please call Cory Heaton,
Agriculture/ Natural Resources Agent with the Chester County Clemson Extension
Office at 803-385-6181 Ext 112. The Chester County Clemson Extension Office is
located at 109 Ella Street, Chester, SC.

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