

Aquatic Plant Harvesting



PLM
LAKE & LAND
MANAGEMENT CORP

Certain circumstances call for the use of mechanical harvesting for nuisance aquatic vegetation. In this process, the plants are cut, collected and removed from the lake often providing immediate results. PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. has provided aquatic plant harvesting services for over thirty years. We currently operate three state-of-the-art aquatic plant harvesters operated by experienced staff to meet your harvesting needs.

ADVANTAGES OF HARVESTING

Nearly all aquatic plant species can be harvested, including species that are difficult or impossible to control using herbicides. In most cases a permit is not required, and the results are almost immediate as the plant material is cut and removed from the waterbody. In addition, the removal of plant biomass can also reduce the amount of nutrients in the lake by removing organic material contained within the harvested plants. Removal of excessive aquatic plant density can also benefit water quality and improve habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.

The harvesting equipment can cut the aquatic vegetation 4-6 feet below the water's surface and collect the cut plant fragments for removal from the lake. A single machine can cut approximately 1 acre per hour, depending upon the location and density of the vegetation. The cut material is then deposited in a predetermined location (farm fields, land fill, etc.).



WHERE IS HARVESTING APPROPRIATE?

Some waterbodies may have limitations imposed on the types of aquatic plant management that can be conducted. In some situations, mechanical harvesting may be the only means of managing nuisance aquatic vegetation. The type and location of the aquatic plants within a lake may also dictate the type of management that can occur. In most cases, it is not advised to harvest certain exotic aquatic plant species, such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, as they are known to spread by fragmentation.

Aside from the types and location of the aquatic plants to be harvested, other criteria must be met in order to initiate a harvesting program. An adequate launch site, a suitable nearby location to dispose of the plant material, appropriate water depths and a minimum of stumps and other obstacles that may interfere with harvesting must all be examined prior to harvesting taking place.



MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

Alto Location
8865 100th St. SE
Alto, MI 49302-9221

Morrice Location
10785 Bennett Dr.
Morrice, MI 48857-8760

Evart Location
9826 S Industrial Drive
Evart, MI 49631

Sturgis Location
1169 N Nottawa St.
Sturgis, MI 49091

Phone (616) 891-1294

Fax (616) 891-0371

Toll-free (800) 382-4434



PLMcorp.net

WHY HIRE A HARVESTING CONTRACTOR?

In most instances, it is less expensive for a lake association to contract harvesting services than buying and maintaining their own harvesting equipment. Only lakes with very large harvesting requirements are likely to benefit from having a harvester for their own exclusive use. In addition, management requirements and harvesting needs may vary from year to year as changes in environmental conditions and plant communities take place.



LIMITATIONS OF HARVESTING

The harvesting equipment requires a minimum depth in which to operate safely. This depth is usually a minimum of 24 inches of water, depending upon the harvesting equipment. Harvesting requires an adequate launch site and shoreline offload site for the transportation of cut material. A dump site for the plant material must be established prior to harvesting taking place, preferably within a 10-mile radius of the waterbody. Any fees for dumping the plant material are the responsibility of the contracting party.



For an evaluation of your waterbody and a price quote depending upon feasibility, contact your local PLM branch office for more details.



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