

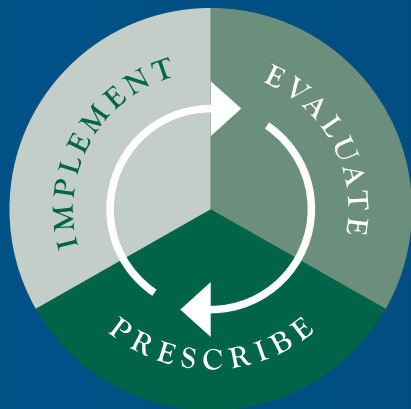
Getting started with

Aquatic Plant Management



PLM

LAKE & LAND
MANAGEMENT CORP



Once an evaluation of your lake has occurred and it is determined that management of aquatic vegetation or algae is required, several options exist. Depending upon the nuisance species, location within the waterbody and established objectives, PLM will develop the most appropriate, cost effective plan to achieve the short- and long-term management goals.

PLM utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to address aquatic problems. Using this method emphasizes spending more effort evaluating and determining the most effective control methods and applying them at the correct time to maximize effectiveness while minimizing costs and non- target impacts.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL METHODS

It is important that aquatic plant control methods meet the expectations of stakeholders' while being economically feasible and ensuring the protection of valued wildlife habitats. Each management method has some advantages and some disadvantages. PLM will prescribe a method best suited for each situation based on a variety of factors.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Biological controls use a naturally occurring pest or disease to control nuisance vegetation. This method is typically used to control invasive exotic species that is displacing native species. Unfortunately, there are limited, if any, effective biological control methods for aquatic plant species in the Midwest.

AQUATIC HERBICIDES

Aquatic herbicides are the most commonly used method to control a variety of nuisance aquatic plant problems. Herbicides are relatively fast acting, cost effective and most can be used selectively to control target species while not affecting desirable native plant species. Aquatic herbicide use in Michigan requires a permit from the Michigan EGLE for most waterbodies and there are regulations on herbicide rates and locations within a waterbody where they can be used.

MECHANICAL HARVESTING

Harvesting is the process of cutting and removing aquatic vegetation from a waterbody. Harvesting is usually best suited for native plant control in areas where herbicides can not be used or in waterbodies where herbicides are not permitted. It is not recommended for some invasive species due to potential fragmentation. Harvesting does not require a permit and can be done anywhere the machines can get access.

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

FUNDING AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

In general, it falls upon the residents to pay for the management of their lake. Unfortunately, there are limited State or Federal grant funds available for lake management activities. Most of the previous grant funding has gone to planning activities, scientific research and watershed level management and not to the direct control of invasive species.

For waterbodies that do not have lake association dues, either mandatory or voluntary, a tax district can typically be developed to assess a fee to riparians to fund management activities. The most common is a Special Assessment District (SAD) utilized by Townships to collect and disperse management funds. A SAD is frequently initiated by a petition process of the landowners within the proposed district. A Statutory Lake Board is similar to a SAD in its formation, but is administered through the County rather than at the Township level. Statutory Lake Board's are best suited for lakes located in more than one township or municipality.

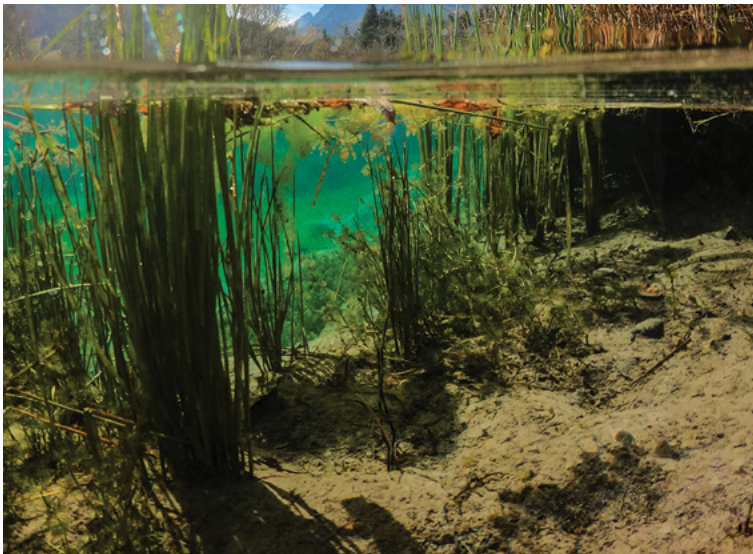
If you have questions about funding for your lake's management, PLM will be glad to assist you. We work with many Special Assessment Districts and Statutory Lake Boards throughout Michigan and have extensive knowledge and experience in assisting riparians through this process.



WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

After prescribing the best control options and establishing a funding mechanism, the implementation process can begin. A contractual agreement will be required prior to services taking place. In many cases, a signed contract, by either the Association or taxing municipality, is required in order to apply for State permits. The permitting process for the use of aquatic herbicides can take one to two months, so it is best to have this process started by late winter.

In the spring of each year, PLM will provide a schedule of planned management activities to be conducted for that season. For management activities that include aquatic herbicide treatments, a list of the herbicides planned for use and their associated water use restrictions will also be included. Prior to any management activities taking place, the account manager will confirm with the primary contact for your lake the intent of our visit, management activities planned and associated costs. This protocol allows the Association to be aware of our management activities, confirm funds are being spent efficiently and management costs are within the collected budget.



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