

NLFCZD NEWMAN LAKE MILFOIL PLAN

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Is there a Program in place to train people how to identify milfoil instead of County Staff coming out to the lake for this purpose?

- There is currently no Program in place. The District would like to utilize Volunteers with the Adopt-A-Shoreline Program and Milfoil Representatives Program to train Newman Lake residents on Eurasian Milfoil Identification.

Will a photo submission to County Staff be accepted as verification of milfoil?

- No – County Staff are bound by our State issued Permit, as well as a Milfoil Grant, to survey and verify the presence and location of Eurasian milfoil by using GPS data.

Who do I contact in my community if I find milfoil? Is that what Milfoil Reps are for?

- Yes, that is what Milfoil Reps and Volunteers are for. If you do not have a Milfoil Rep/Volunteer in your area, you may contact District Staff. Contact Information is below:

Karen Kruger (District Staff) (509) 477-7262 kkruger@spokanecounty.org

Please see Milfoil Reps List and Map to see if you have a Milfoil Rep in your area.

Can I pull up the milfoil?

- If you decide to pull/remove Eurasian milfoil yourself, please be sure you pull it up by the roots, and that no fragments are released. Each little piece that escapes will create another plant.

Do I need any permits to pull milfoil or nuisance weeds?

- Yes, there is a Pamphlet Permit from State Fish and Wildlife. The link to the WDFW Pamphlet Permit is below:
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01728/wdfw01728.pdf>

What do I do with milfoil that washes up on my shore?

- To help control the Eurasian Milfoil population in the lake, please rake up any milfoil that washes onto your shoreline, and place it in a compost pile away from the lake, or throw it in the trash for disposal.

Can I hire a private company to treat milfoil chemically in front of my lot?

- No - An Aquatic Plant and Algae General Permit from State Department of Ecology is needed to have herbicides applied to a water body. The District has been issued the General permit.
- Herbicide applicators prefer a continuous treatment area of at least one or more acres of milfoil for a success. Also, there are water use restrictions, and lake water testing requirements after herbicide treatments are completed.

Diving Contractors

Divers who perform suction weeding use a suction dredging machine, which runs on a compressor, a high-pressure water pump, and a separation system, and is often able to remove milfoil by the roots. Some diving contractors will also install and remove bottom barrier weed mats.

Can I hire a diver to inspect my shore and pull milfoil in front of my lot?

- Yes, that is a great idea! And, if your neighbors also have milfoil they would like removed, it would be great if the bay or neighborhood would go in together and hire the diver directly.

Why is the diver pulling my neighbor's milfoil and not mine?

- Very likely because either the District or your neighbor hired the diver to remove milfoil in that area.

- If you know you have Eurasian Milfoil within the lake in front of your property, please coordinate with your neighbors to find out if they also have milfoil, and contact Karen Kruger/District Staff at (509) 477-7262 or kkruiger@spokanecounty.org, or contact your local Milfoil Representative, if there is one in your area to discuss your options.

Who determines where to dive and pull milfoil?

- The District, if they have hired a contracted diver; also, the Newman Lake shoreline residents, through coordination with District Staff and/or their neighborhood Milfoil Representatives/Volunteers.

Can neighborhoods (HOA, residents, etc.) hire the diving service to piggyback onto the District work/permit and save costs?

- It is often less expensive for residents to hire a Diving Contractor directly than it is for the District, due to the required Bidding/Contracting process. Private residents/HOA are exempt from these requirements.
- One goal for the 2016 – 2018 Newman Lake Milfoil Plan is to encourage private residents to coordinate with District Staff or their Milfoil Representatives/Volunteers, to take on the responsibility for Eurasian Milfoil Removal within private/shallow dock and swimming areas. This will benefit Newman Lake Milfoil Control and the District budget.

Bottom Barrier Mats

Benthic or Bottom Barrier Mats are used to control small patches of milfoil growth in shallow dock or swimming areas. The mats are a 6 oz. Geo-textile fabric, and are like using weed fabric in your yard.

What size are the Mats and how much do they weigh?

- The Mats received by the District through a DNR grant, measure 12' X 15'. They are light weight when dry and will be heavier when wet.

Who should use a Mat for milfoil control?

- If you currently have a small population of milfoil near your dock or within a shallow swimming area, you may be a good candidate for using a barrier mat.

How can I get a mat?

- Mats will be issued to Newman Lake property owners who have “verified” milfoil, and are interested in placing and removing the mats each year.
- Milfoil verification to be completed by District staff or their local Milfoil Representative.
- To keep track of who receives a mat, and the process they plan to follow, a Mat Application will need to be filled out and received by District Staff.
- Twenty mats will be available for installation in spring (until mid-June) 2017 and 2018.

Can I use the mat for nuisance weed control?

- Mats available from the District should only be used for Eurasian milfoil control, not for control of native/nuisance weeds.
- Once you return the application to District staff and a milfoil population in front of your property has been verified, you will be issued a Benthic Mat.
- Mats can be picked up from District Staff or Volunteers.

Who installs the Mat?

- You can either install yourself, or you may hire one of the divers to install for you. If you choose to hire a diver, this is where coordinating with your neighbors and Milfoil Representatives will ensure the diver is coming out for one or two scheduled days to perform mat placement for everyone at once, instead of making several trips.

- If you install the mat yourself, we request that you weigh it down with concrete pavers about every four to five feet around the edge. We have heard some divers use PVC pipe filled with gravel and capped on both ends, then attach the mat fabric to the pipes on each end of the mat. This has been used to keep mats in place.
- If you decide to hire a diver to set the mat for you, the District will provide a list of divers who perform mat placement in the spring and mat removal in early fall.

When should the Mats be pulled up?

- Mats should be pulled up by the end of September and hosed off to clean and air dried for use next year.

Who evaluates the use of the Mat?

- Mat use will be evaluated by the user, and reported to District Staff or to the Milfoil Representative. Mat users can either send an email or call District staff to let us know the results of Mat use in their area.

How do I return the Mat?

- If the Mat user wishes to continue using the mat each year, they should notify District Staff or their Milfoil Rep. If they no longer plan to use the mat the next season, they can contact District Staff or one of the Milfoil Reps to find out how to pass it along to another user who has verified milfoil.

Native “Nuisance” Plants

Some aquatic plants that are not Eurasian milfoil are considered native “nuisance” weeds, and are beneficial for fish and wildlife habitat, as well as shoreline stabilization, and water quality.

Can I pull weeds that are not milfoil from in front of my lot?

Yes, and you will need to have a WDFW Pamphlet Permit on site, and have read it. Please follow the link to permit: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01728/wdfw01728.pdf> and read the chart on page 4. Fish and Wildlife prefer you use caution and don’t over-harvest the area.

Can I hire someone to pull native “nuisance weeds” from in front of my lot?

- If you hire a diver suction weeding contractor, a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit must first be issued from Fish and Wildlife before the contractor can remove native “nuisance” plants. If you hire someone who is not going to use suction weeding, and will be pulling them by hand, the WDFW Pamphlet Permit will apply.

Can I chemically treat nuisance weeds in front of my lot?

- No - You must have an Aquatic Plant and Algae General Permit issued by the Department of Ecology to use herbicides for treatment of vegetation within a water body in Washington State. The District is encouraging shoreline residents to discontinue the practice of using chemical herbicides within residential areas.