

## Hydrilla Management at Lake Norman



### What is hydrilla?

Hydrilla is a nonnative aquatic plant that forms nearly impenetrable mats of stems and leaves at the surface of the water. Like many nonnative species, hydrilla crowds out other vegetation and grows rapidly. It was introduced in the United States decades ago as an aquarium plant but has taken over many water reservoirs nationally through accidental release. Its growing season is spring and summer; it is dormant mid-fall through the winter.

### What can I do about the hydrilla around my pier/marina/shoreline?

Effective management of hydrilla is expensive and requires multiple growing seasons. The current long-term strategy for widespread hydrilla management at Lake Norman is the use of sterile grass carp that will eat the hydrilla. A total of 10,200 grass carp were stocked in Lake Norman in spring 2018 at the scientifically determined rate of 20 fish per infested acre of hydrilla.

The vegetation management requirements in the lake's shoreline management plan (SMP) allow for the removal of nonnative invasive aquatic weeds like hydrilla; however, Duke Energy advises lake neighbors not to undertake individual control measures at this time. Lake neighbors who elect to move forward with their own measures should understand any hydrilla management measures implemented are going to have only short-term benefits. Lake neighbors and lake users are **not** allowed to remove native aquatic vegetation. Duke Energy Lake Services does not require a permit for managing hydrilla.

### Who is responsible for managing hydrilla around my pier/marina/shoreline?

Several agencies have traditionally worked together to manage invasive aquatic weeds in the Catawba-Wateree lake system. Currently, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), Lake Norman Marine Commission, Charlotte Water and Duke Energy are working together to implement measures to manage hydrilla at Lake Norman. The lake will be surveyed in fall 2018 to re-identify the infested areas. Suspected occurrences of hydrilla can also be reported to the Lake Norman Marine Commission ([rshoultz@lnmc.org](mailto:rshoultz@lnmc.org)).

### Can I buy my own sterile grass carp to put in at my own pier/marina/shoreline?

The NCWRC regulates the stocking of sterile grass carp at Lake Norman and a permit from the NCWRC is required prior to stocking grass carp in public waters like Lake Norman. Contact Mark Fowlkes ([mark.fowlkes@ncwildlife.org](mailto:mark.fowlkes@ncwildlife.org)) for information about the permitting process.

### Can I treat the hydrilla around my pier/marina/shoreline with an herbicide?

The SMP allows lake neighbors to remove invasive aquatic weeds; however, aquatic herbicide treatment provides only temporary control. Duke Energy encourages lake neighbors to be patient to give the sterile grass carp that have been stocked in the lake time to reduce the hydrilla. Lake neighbors who want to use aquatic herbicides are prohibited by state law from personally applying the herbicides. They must hire a state-certified applicator who can ensure all state laws are met and that native vegetation is not affected. For additional information about state laws governing the application of aquatic herbicides, contact Rob Emens ([rob.emens@ncdenr.gov](mailto:rob.emens@ncdenr.gov)) with the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. Charlotte Water asks lake neighbors not to apply aquatic herbicides within a quarter mile of the Lee Dukes drinking water intake near Blythe Landing. Contact Charlotte Water for additional information.

### Does Duke Energy have a list of certified herbicide applicators?

Duke Energy does not have a list of certified herbicide applicators. Lake neighbors who are interested in locating a certified herbicide applicator can contact Cygnet Enterprises in Statesville, N.C., (704.883.8833) to receive a referral to state-licensed aquatic plant herbicide applicator companies in the Lake Norman region.