

EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL ALERT



Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources "Invading Species" website

Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) is rapidly spreading in Malcolm and Ardoch lakes. It is invasive, very aggressive and **not good news** to our lake system for several reasons:

1) It branches and forms very dense growths in the water and on the water surface.

These **milfoil "mats" tangle up in rudders, props, paddles and fishing gear.**

Swimming is also very unpleasant or near impossible in these weedy areas.

2) It shades out and kills native vegetation.

3) Water intake systems can become clogged easier with EWM.

4) Dense beds of EWM can be great habitat for mosquito larvae, making water stagnant and harder for predators to find them.

5) When milfoil dies back and decays at the season's end, the thick "biomass" on the lake floor uses the lake's oxygen, depleting oxygen levels for the fish. If too much oxygen is used by the large decaying milfoil layers, fish and other aquatic animals die.

6) A shallower lake is in more danger of becoming totally filled or "infested" with Eurasian Water-Milfoil. EWM prefers shallow water one to two metres deep, but can root in up to 10 metres of water.¹

This can **make a lake aesthetically unattractive and result in**

REDUCED PROPERTY VALUES (15 – 20%, based on recent Kawartha area real estate figures.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO



¹ <http://www.invadingspecies.com/eurasian-water-milfoil/>

WHAT YOU CAN DO :

- a) Avoid disturbing established water-milfoil patches while boating or fishing.
Two large patches are at the outflow of Ardoch Lake and Malcolm Lake along the shore west of the boat launch. It reroots from broken pieces.
- b) Control milfoil in the shallows along your waterfront – pull plants out, gently by the roots and dispose of on dry land or in trash.
- c) Clean any visible vegetation from your boat, propeller and trailer and dispose in the same manner.
- d) Encourage others to do the same!

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Eurasian water-milfoil drawing. Each leaf has 12 or more thread-like segments.
Illustration courtesy of: IFAS Centre for Aquatic Plants,
University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990.