

PRESS RELEASE: 2026 Hydrilla Control Treatments at Lake Gaston

The Lake Gaston Weed Control Council's (LGWCC) hydrilla management program is initiating its 2026 season on the week of May 18th. This will be the first of three consecutive monthly treatments which are expected to occur May 19th – 21st, June 16th – 18th, and July 14th – 16th. This year's program will target 326 acres for hydrilla specific treatment applications, and an interactive map of all treatment locations can be found on the LGWCC website (<http://www.lgwcc.org>).

During these treatments, residents within the treatment areas should expect to see applicators from PLM Lake & Land Management Group (PLM) performing shoreline, granular applications by broadcasting herbicide pellets from boat mounted units. The chemical protocol utilized for targeting hydrilla includes herbicides that are EPA-approved for aquatic use but carry water-use restrictions regarding irrigation following applications. Therefore, all boat docks within the treatment areas will be posted with a notification letter from PLM prior to each application.

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is a federally listed noxious species that has been managed within the system for over 20 years. Along with herbicide applications that target active hydrilla growth, sterile (triploid) grass carp are stocked in Lake Gaston to help provide long-term control of the invasive species. To maintain the population of grass carp needed for hydrilla control within the system, Dominion Energy will provide funding for approximately 1,300 grass carp to be stocked in 2026.

Any questions regarding aquatic vegetation in Lake Gaston should be directed to either aquaticplants@ncsu.edu or the Lake Gaston Weed Control website (<http://www.lgwcc.org>).

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