

Aquatic Weeds on the Yadkin Project Reservoirs

What is hydrilla?

- Hydrilla is a submersed aquatic plant recognized by the State of North Carolina as a noxious aquatic weed.
- Hydrilla forms nearly impenetrable mats of stems and leaves at the surface of the water.
- Hydrilla currently infests many aquatic systems throughout North Carolina.
- Advanced infestations can alter aquatic habitats and drive ecological shifts; and can cause the loss of recreational use of waters.
- Hydrilla is spread primarily by human activities. Plant fragments are spread from boat motors and trailers or from live wells and bait containers.

What is lyngbya?

- Lyngbya is a blue-green algae that is **not** recognized by the State of North Carolina or the Aquatic Weed Control Program as a noxious aquatic weed.
- Lyngbya forms long filamentous hair-like strands that mat together in thick layers and can form mats at the surface and throughout the water column.
- This algae crowds out beneficial native aquatic plant species and may impact recreation because of the distasteful appearance, rotten egg smell, and entanglement problems.
- Lyngbya is common in North Carolina waterbodies, with no simple solution for permanent removal.

What is Cube Yadkin doing to manage hydrilla and lyngbya in the Yadkin Project reservoirs?

- Began cooperating with the NC Aquatic Weed Control Program and the Wildlife Resources Commission in 2011 to actively manage and control hydrilla in the Project reservoirs.
- Supported the management of hydrilla in the Project reservoirs with biological (triploid grass carp) and chemical controls (herbicides) since 2012.
- Partnered with NC State University to conduct annual aquatic vegetation surveys.

- In 2014, in cooperation with SePRO, tested stands of lyngbya to develop recommendations for chemical treatment.
- The 2018 vegetation survey of Tuckertown and Narrows Reservoirs, showed that the percent occurrence of hydrilla on both reservoirs has decreased overtime:

Hydrilla	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tuckertown	55%	28%	0%	0%
Narrows	2%	<1%	0%	0%

- During this same time period, lyngbya has continued to persist, despite treatment:

Lyngbya	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tuckertown	58%	59%	58%	58%
Narrows	6%	17%	38%	21%

- In cooperation with the NC Aquatic Weed Control Program posted “Stop the Spread of Aquatic Weeds” at Project boat access areas.
- Cube Yadkin continues to cooperate with the State of North Carolina and NC State University in 2019. Management activities planned for 2019 include:
 - Grass carp stocking
 - Herbicide applications
 - Vegetation survey
 - NCSU lyngbya monitoring and research

What can I do to prevent the spread of these aquatic weeds?

- Practice good environmental stewardship by inspecting your boat, trailer, and equipment and removing any visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud before leaving the access area.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the access area.
- Spray, rinse, or dry boats and equipment to remove invisible hitchhikers.
- Dispose of unwanted bait and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash.
- Use best practices when applying lawn fertilizers and do not apply within 20-ft of the shoreline.

