

Press Release
June 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer 2023 Hydrilla Treatments and Monitoring Scheduled for Cayuga Lake's South End

As part of an ongoing effort to eradicate the invasive plant Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) from Cayuga Lake, vigilant monitoring and treatment will continue this Summer and Fall in Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek, Fall Creek, and around the south end of Cayuga Lake. Since it was first discovered in the inlet in 2011, every reported infestation has been incorporated into the treatment plans of the Tompkins County Hydrilla Task Force. The treatment has been effective in reducing the plant density, eliminating some localized infestations, and slowing the spread. However, the threat of spread continues. The public awareness campaigns for lake users to “Clean, Drain, Dry” boats and equipment including voluntary inspections at some public launch sites by Watercraft Stewards, are only effective if the public participates and follow these practices at their private docks and informal launch sites. Stopping Hydrilla spread by local boat traffic, which can move fragments of the plant to new sites within the lake, is a serious challenge.

2023 Treatment Plans

The Tompkins County Hydrilla Task Force has developed the monitoring and treatment plan for Summer and Fall 2023. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District (USACE Buffalo) will apply the well-studied aquatic herbicide fluridone (tradenames Sonar® H4C and Sonar® Genesis) to treat known Hydrilla patches. A total of 10 Sonar® H4C treatments will occur on Thursdays between June 29th and August 31st within the approximately 70-acre project area around the lake's south shore, Fall Creek, Cayuga Inlet, and Cascadilla Creek. Sonar® Gensis treatment is planned for 18.7 acres of Fall Creek main channel between June 29th and September 14th. If necessary, spot treatments with Harpoon® Granular may be used in areas that regrow. The project area is divided into the following four treatment areas (see attached maps):

1. **Fall Creek:** 18.7 acres of Fall Creek main channel located between the State Route 13 bridge and its confluence with Cayuga Lake (Sonar® Gensis treatment area), and 3.8 acres of hydrologically connected lagoons at Stewart Park and the golf course (Sonar® H4C treatment area).
2. **Cayuga Lake East:** 27.4 acres at the southern end of Cayuga Lake offshore of Stewart Park.
3. **Cayuga Lake West:** 6.7 acres west of the confluence of Cayuga Lake with Cayuga Inlet.
4. **Cayuga Inlet:** 15.7 acres will be treated including the east side of the inlet between the Cornell Collyer Boat House and the Newman Municipal Golf Course, and Cascadilla Creek between the inlet and State Route 13. Additionally, the area at the Allen H. Treman State Marine Park boat launch will be treated.

For the Fall Creek and Cayuga Lake East treatment areas, the first two applications will occur at 20 parts per billion (ppb), followed by eight applications at 9 ppb for treatments 3 through 10. For the Cayuga Lake West and Cayuga Inlet treatment area, the first two applications will occur at 20 ppb, followed by eight applications at 13.75 ppb for treatments 3 through 10. The main channel portion of the Fall Creek treatment area from State Route 13 bridge to the confluence with Cayuga Lake will be treated with Sonar® Genesis to maintain a 2.5 ppm daily rate using an injection system and creek flow measurements.

Additionally, if there is any significant re-establishment of hydrilla beds in the 70-acre project area, those beds may be spot treated with Harpoon® Granular, on or about the week of August 14, 2023. These spot treatment applications are not expected to exceed approximately 5 acres. Signs will be posted along the lake when the herbicide is applied.

Water Use Restrictions & Monitoring

There will be no restrictions for drinking, fishing, swimming, boating, or livestock/pet water consumption at the application rates of Sonar® H4C, Sonar® Genesis, and Harpoon® Granular that will be used.

Water that contains the Sonar® fluridone herbicides, however, **should not be used for irrigating sensitive greenhouse or nursery plants, newly seeded lawns, and some vegetable crops.** See Table 1 below for details on restrictions based on fluridone concentration.

Following each treatment, Tompkins County Whole Health and Bolton Point conduct water quality monitoring and the results will be posted to their website.

Table 1 Selected Herbicides and Water Use Restrictions

Product	Irrigation - Established Row Crops/Turf/Ornamental Plants	Irrigation - Tobacco, Tomatoes, Peppers and Similar Plants, and Newly Seeded Crops/Seedbeds or Areas to be Planted Including Overseeded Golf Courses	Irrigation - Nursery, Greenhouse, Hydroponics	Drinking water, culinary or food processing purposes
Sonar® H4C, Sonar® Genesis	Do not use if concentrations ≥ 10 ppb	Do not use if concentrations > 5 ppb	Do not use if concentrations ≥ 1 ppb; FasTEST required	Do not use if concentrations ≥ 50 ppb*
Harpoon® Granular	None	None	None	Do not use if concentrations ≥ 200 ppb*

*** Applications will be below the listed thresholds.**

Key: ppb = parts per billion

Treatment Notification signage

Treatment notification signs are posted at ~100 ft intervals at every shoreline within the treatment area that is publicly accessible via regularly used public park or walking trail. Signs will be posted along Fall Creek and mention both the Sonar® H4C and Sonar® Genesis treatments, and signs for Sonar® H4C will be posted in areas where this is the only treatment (East and West Lake Treatment Areas and the Cayuga Inlet area). There will be signs posted at Allen H. Treman State Marine Park at all dock access points even though treatment will occur only near the boat launch to the inlet and there are no plans for treatment within the marina at this time.

Public Information and Questions

For questions about herbicide concentrations and applications:

Richard Ruby Richard.J.Ruby@usace.army.mil, or
Angel Hinickle AHinickle@tompkins-co.org

For questions concerning public drinking water and water monitoring results:

<https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/eh/water/hydrilla>

Tompkins County Whole Health
55 Brown Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-274-6688

Product labels are available for review on Solitude Lake Management's website:

<https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/product-labels-new-york-updates>. Hard copies of the labels can be requested by contacting Bob Gibson, bob.gibson@wsp.com, 716-680-8060

For more Cayuga Lake Hydrilla information:

Liz Kreitinger, steward@cayugalake.org, 315-367-4805

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's annually updated Hydrilla Information and Action Webpage contains links to many additional resources about Hydrilla and its management in Cayuga Lake. <https://www.cayugalake.org/resources/hydrilla-information-action/>