What will this Project do to Stop Hydrilla?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Buffalo District is continuing its efforts to treat hydrilla in the vicinity of Wells College Bay on Cayuga Lake, where hydrilla was first observed in September 2016. For the 2025 efforts, USACE Buffalo will again be collaboratively implementing the project with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Treatment will focus on the use of fluridone (Sonar® H4C) and chelated copper (Harpoon® Granular) in treatment areas delineated based on observations of hydrilla beds from fall 2024.

Herbicide Information

For more information on Sonar® H4C and Harpoon® Granular, refer to the link below for product labels:

https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/product-labels-new-york-updates

For 2025, a combined approximately 250-acre area in Wells College Bay will be treated by USACE Buffalo and NYSDEC, divided into the following areas (see Figure 1):

USACE Treatment Areas

- **Northern Treatment Area:** 74.7 acres between Glen Creek to the Stone House at Ingleside, comprised of three different areas, at depths between 0-15 feet.
- **Southern Treatment Area:** 4.7 acres from the Rowland House to Dean Creek, comprised of four different areas, at depths between 0-15 feet.

NYSDEC Treatment Areas

- **Little Creek Treatment Area:** 0.2 acres near the mouth of Little Creek.
- **Long Point Treatment Area:** 2.7 acres south of Long Point State Park.
- **Long Point State Park Shallow Treatment Area:** 0.9 acres near the Long Point State Park Boat Launch.
- **South Deep Treatment Area:** 35.6 acres north of Poplar Ridge Road to approximately 1600 feet south of State Route 90.
- **Southern Shallow Treatment Area:** 101.4 acres north of Poplar Ridge Road south to Long Point State Park.
- **South Long Point Treatment Area 1:** 15 acres south of Long Point State Park along Lake Road and Honoco Road.
- **South Long Point Treatment Area 2:** 15 acres south of Long Point State Park along Honoco Road.

For the USACE Northern Treatment Area, Sonar® H4C applications will be split into a total of 10 treatments at the following application rates: 20 parts per billion (ppb) for treatments 1 to 3; 15 ppb for treatment 4; and 12.5 ppb for treatments 5 to 10. For the USACE Southern Treatment Area, Harpoon® Granular will be applied once at an application rate of 1 part per million (ppm) (or 1,000 ppb).

Post-treatment monitoring will be conducted to determine the success of the treatment and whether future treatments will be needed.

When will Treatment Occur?

The initial application of Sonar® H4C in the USACE Northern Treatment Area is targeted for the week of June 23, 2025, and a total of 10 treatments will occur between June and August. Treatments will occur approximately seven days apart, depending on dilution rates within the lake treatment area. The application of Harpoon® Granular in the USACE Southern Treatment Area will occur one time and is targeted for August 6, 2025.

Herbicide will routinely be applied on Wednesdays unless there are weather delays. The herbicide will be applied only if there are favorable weather conditions. Any changes in the treatment schedule will be communicated to the public.

Will there be any Restrictions on Use of the Lake during Treatment?

A water sampling program will be implemented to monitor fluridone concentrations in the lake. The program will ensure that the herbicides are applied at the targeted concentration rates, and the monitoring results will be used to determine herbicide dispersion. The Cayuga County Health Department will again be posting the monitoring results on their website which can be accessed at: **https://www.cayugacounty.us/1540/Eradication-Project-in-Aurora**.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions for fishing, swimming, or livestock/pet water consumption at the proposed application rates of Sonar® H4C and Harpoon® Granular.

There **ARE** restrictions for using water treated with Sonar® H4C for irrigation and for potable water treated with Sonar® H4C and Harpoon® Granular if treated water concentrations are above what is indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Water Use Restrictions

Product	Established Row Crops/Turf/ Ornamental Plants	Tobacco, Tomatoes, Peppers and Similar Plants, and Newly Seeded Crops/ Seedbeds or Areas to be Planted Including Overseeded Golf Courses	Nursery, Greenhouse, Hydroponics	Potable Water
Sonar® H4C	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 of Sonar® H4C will be below the listed thresholds. **ppb** parts per billion

** Application of Harpoon® Granular will only exceed these concentrations in small spot treatment areas that are not expected to exceed a cumulative total of 5 acres for the season. These spot treatment areas are approximately 1 mile away from potable water intakes.

Signs will be placed at all public access locations within the treatment area to notify the public of these restrictions.

Tentative Treatment Schedule (*the Week of…*)

WEEK OF	
June 23	1st Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
June 30	2nd Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
July 7	3rd Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
July 14	4th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
July 21	5th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
July 28	6th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
August 4	7th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area) One-Time Harpoon® Granular Treatment (USACE Southern Treatment Area)
August 11	8th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
August 18	9th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)
August 25	10th Sonar® H4C Treatment (USACE Northern Treatment Area)

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

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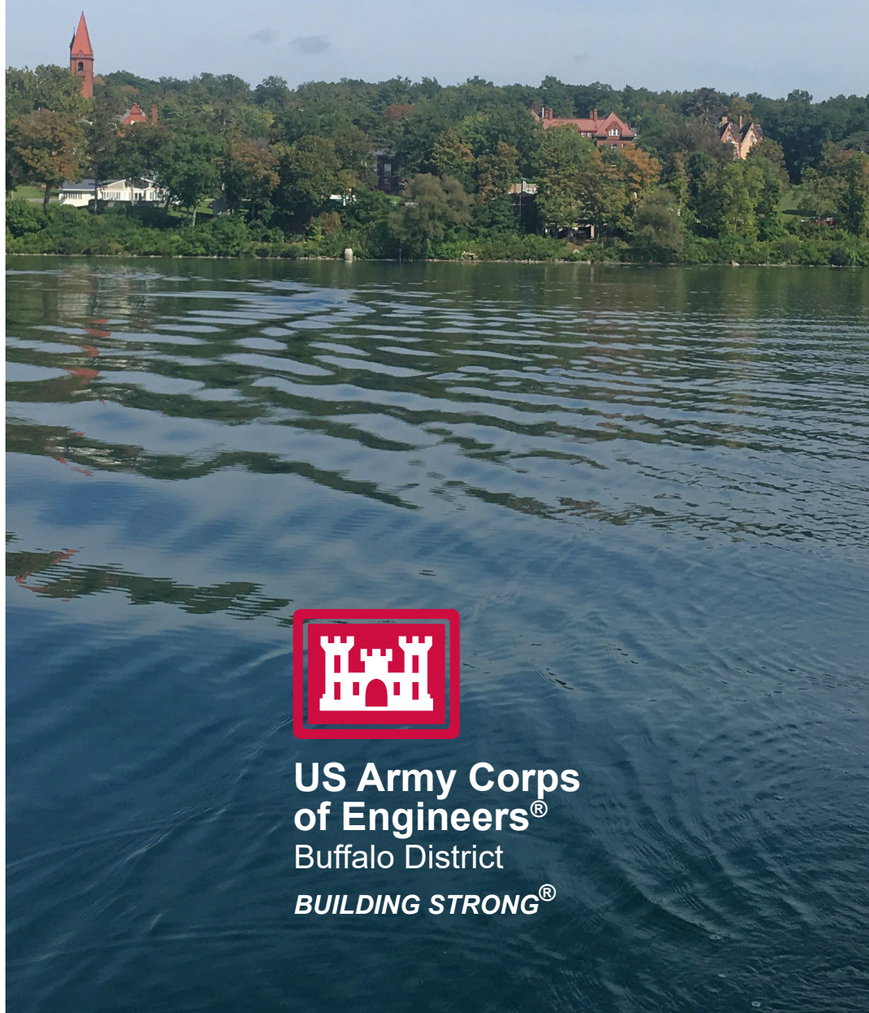
CAYUGA LAKE AT AURORA, NEW YORK

2025 HYDRILLA CONTROL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Stop hydrilla from expanding further into other areas of New York State and the Great Lakes!



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What is Hydrilla and What Concerns Does it Pose to Cayuga Lake?

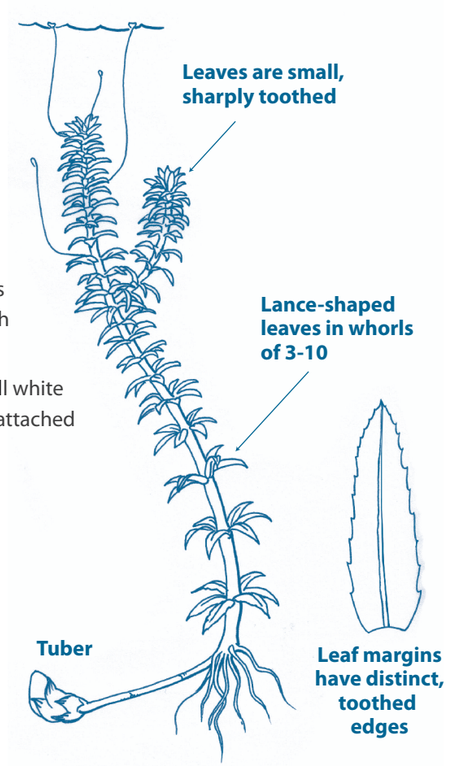
Source: Scott Kishbaugh, NYSDEC Hydrilla whorls up close

Hydrilla is a very aggressive aquatic invasive plant native to Korea. It is a submerged aquatic plant that is typically rooted in shallow water, with long stems that can grow up to 30 feet in length and up to one inch per day. These stems branch at the water's surface and grow horizontally, forming thick, dense mats. Hydrilla also produces tubers, small potato-like structures, which store food for the plant and also allow it to overwinter in the substrate of the waterbody and sprout in the spring.

What Does Hydrilla Look Like?

Key plant identification features:

- Pointed, bright green leaves about 5/8 inch long with small teeth on the edges
- Leaves generally grow in whorls of 3-10 around the stem, though 5 leaves are most common
- Floating white flowers and small white to yellowish potato-like tubers attached to the roots

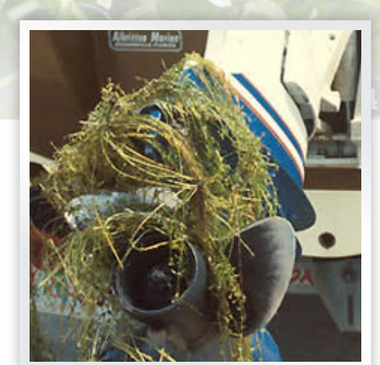


Source: Cayuga Lake Watershed Network 2012

Source: Leslie Mehrhoff, from the U.S. Forest Service

How Does it Spread?

- Primary method of spreading is through hydrilla fragments on recreational boats and trailers
- Even tiny fragments of hydrilla can sprout roots and establish new populations
- Fragments float and can be spread via wind and water currents



Source: Jeff Schardt, Florida DEP Hydrilla on boat

Why Do We Need to Stop It?

- It is one of the world's most invasive aquatic plants.
- It can grow up to one inch per day.
- It forms dense mats that block sunlight and displace native plants.
- It decreases dissolved oxygen levels which can lead to fish kills.
- It destroys waterfowl feeding areas and fish spawning sites.
- It reduces the weight and size of sportsfish due to loss of open water and native vegetation.
- It excludes boating, fishing, and swimming due to its thick mats.
- It can hurt the local economy due to impacts on tourism and waterfront property values.

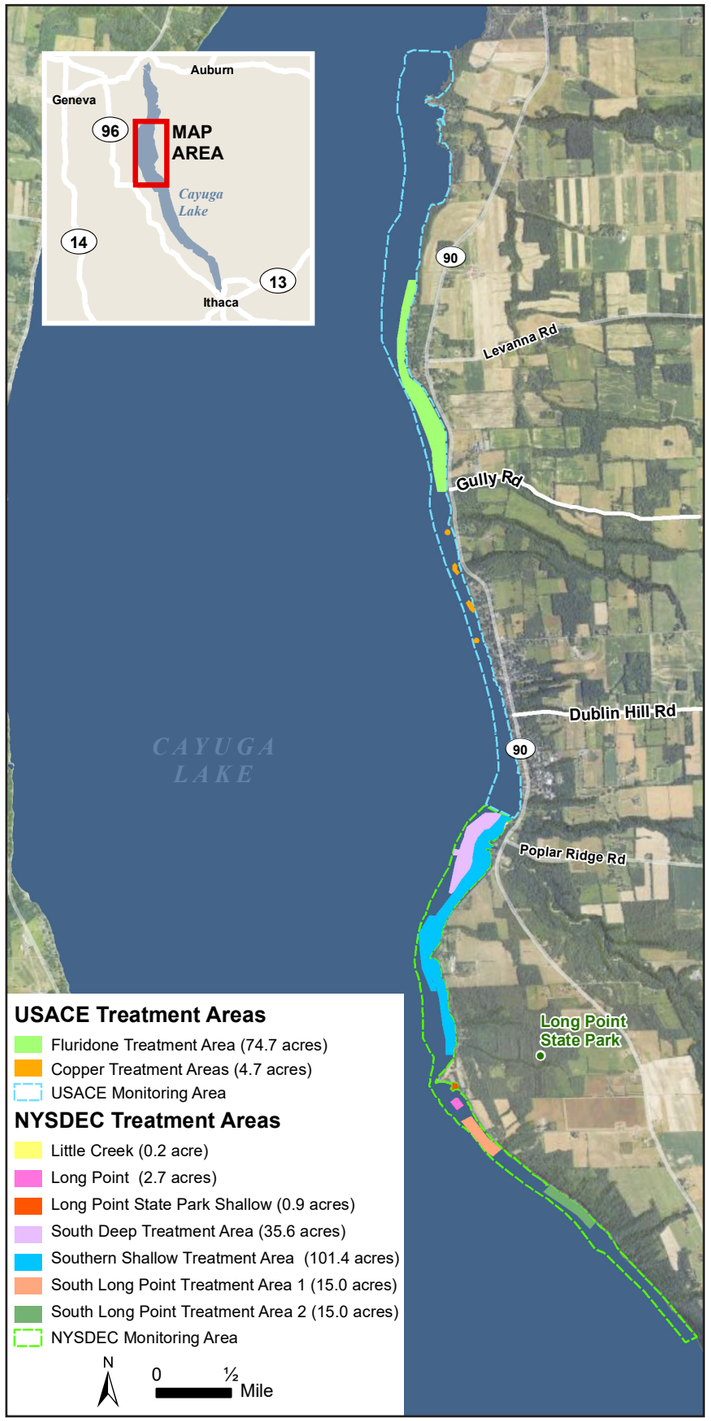



Figure 1: 2025 Project Area Map