

What will this Project do to Stop Hydrilla?

The USACE Buffalo District is continuing its efforts to treat hydrilla in Cayuga Lake in the vicinity of Ithaca. **For 2025, approximately 17 acres at the southern end of Cayuga Lake have been identified for treatment, based on observations of hydrilla beds from fall 2024.** The aquatic herbicide fluridone (Sonar® H4C) will be applied within the project area, which is divided into seven different areas within the Cayuga Inlet and Cascadilla Creek (see Figure 1).

Sonar® H4C application will be split into 10 treatments. The first two applications will occur at 20 parts per billion (ppb), and the remaining eight applications at 13.75 ppb.

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

HERBICIDE INFORMATION

For more information on Sonar® H4C refer to the link below for product labels:
<https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/product-labels-new-york-updates>

When will the Project Take Place?

The first application of Sonar® H4C will occur on or about June 26, 2025. A total of 10 treatments will occur approximately seven days apart, depending on dilution rates within the inlet treatment area.

Herbicide will routinely be applied on Thursdays, 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?

Water sampling will be conducted to monitor fluridone concentrations in the lake. This will ensure that the herbicides are applied at the targeted concentration rates, and the monitoring results will be used to determine herbicide dispersion. The Tompkins County Health Department will again be posting the monitoring results on their website which can be accessed at: <https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/All-Departments/Whole-Health/Environmental-Health-Division/Hydrilla-in-Cayuga-Lake>.

Restrictions

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

There **ARE** restrictions for using water treated with Sonar® H4C for irrigation and for potable water treated with Sonar® H4C 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; <i>FastEST</i> required	Do not use if concentrations > 50 ppb*
* Applications of Sonar® H4C will be below the listed thresholds.			ppb = parts per billion	

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	Date	Treatment
	June 23	1st Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	June 30	2nd Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	July 7	3rd Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	July 14	4th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	July 21	5th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	July 28	6th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	Aug 4	7th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	Aug 11	8th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	Aug 18	9th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)
	Aug 25	10th Sonar® H4C Treatment (Cayuga Inlet, Cascadilla Creek)

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

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CAYUGA INLET, CAYUGA LAKE, ITHACA, NEW YORK

2025 HYDRILLA CONTROL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

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



US Army Corps of Engineers®
 Buffalo District
 BUILDING STRONG®

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



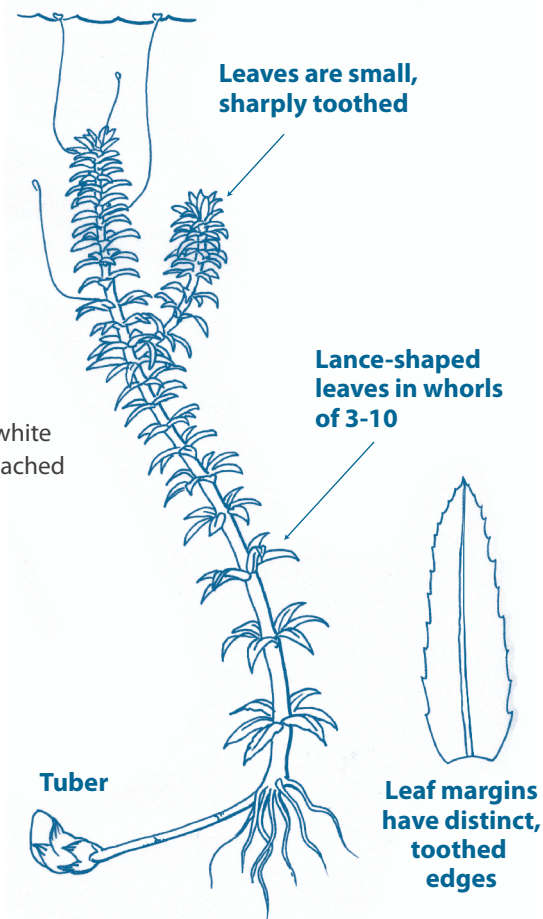
Source: Scott Kishbaugh, NYSDEC Hydrilla whorls up close

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

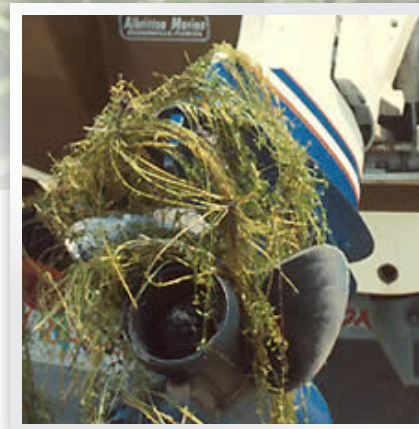


Source: Cayuga Lake Watershed Network 2012



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

