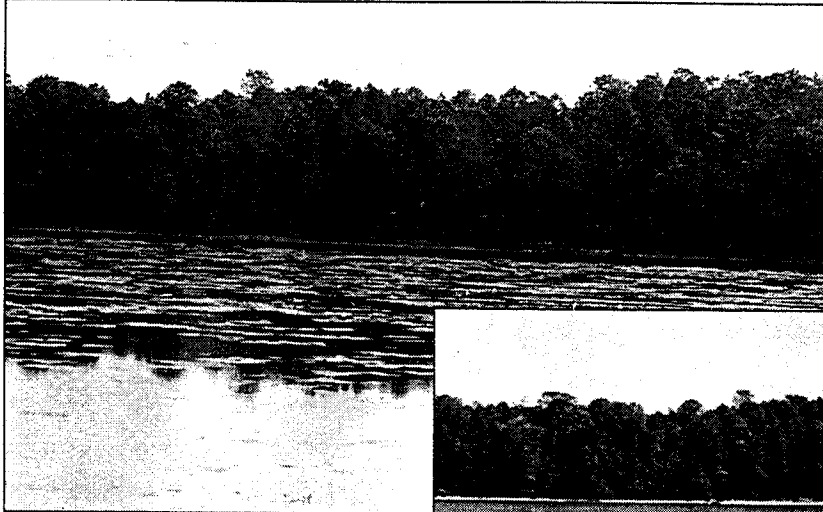
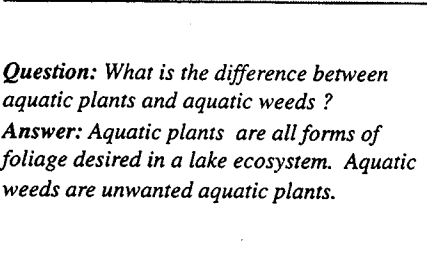


LAKEWATCH

A Publication Dedicated To Sharing Information about Water Management and the Florida LAKEWATCH Program • Volume VII / Fall '96



BEFORE: Lake Riley in September 1995, with heavy spatterdock growth.



AFTER: Lake Riley in January 1996, after the careful application of a herbicide.



Question: What is the difference between aquatic plants and aquatic weeds ?

Answer: Aquatic plants are all forms of foliage desired in a lake ecosystem. Aquatic weeds are unwanted aquatic plants.

TWO APPROACHES TO A COMMON PROBLEM

A common question asked by many lakefront residents is “how do I get rid of the weeds growing in my lake?”

It can be a delicate subject when you consider that aquatic plants (or weeds) represent an intricate part of a lake ecosystem.

How does one judge whether or not there are too many aquatic plants in their lake? How will we know when we’ve gone overboard and removed too many plants; and will these changes adversely affect the lake?

Lake use issues come into play as well. Will the lake be used for fishing, boating, swimming, canoeing, or wildlife habitat? How do aquatic plants fit into these scenarios? What changes in aquatic plant growth will the lake endure without negatively affecting the ecosystem?

LAKEWATCH volunteer John Yocum struggled with this lake management dilemma concerning Lake Riley in Putnam County. After quite a bit of research and effort, he developed two very different but successful techniques for controlling aquatic plant growth on his lake.

Technique #1 involved aquatic plant control on a much larger scale including obtaining permits, organizing a group of volunteer helpers, and documenting the entire process in a report complete with before-and-after photographs. His efforts provide us with an example of successful aquatic plant control by lake residents.

Technique #2 involved controlling the growth of milfoil plants around his dock.

The LAKEWATCH program encourages volunteers and lakeside residents to be active participants in lake management decisions such as this one. It’s important for lake managers, be they professionals or volunteers, to make decisions based on reliable scientific information, and then use the proper permitting channels. And lastly, it’s vital to share information so that others can learn from their experiences.

The following information provided by John Yocum and his co-helpers provides us with a great example of the steps that can be taken to manage aquatic plants in a way that achieves lake management goals.

(continued on pages 4 and 5)