

Aquatic Plant Facts

- ⇒ Native plants are important in a healthy lake, providing food and shelter for fish, and stabilizing the shoreline.
- ⇒ Invasive plants have no local enemies, so they take over and choke out native plants. Eventually they can even cover the surface of a lake.
- ⇒ **Milfoil** is the invasive plant most common in New Hampshire. Not all varieties of milfoil are bad.
- ⇒ **Eurasian** and **Variable Milfoil** are invasive:
 - * They spread at tremendous rates - as much as one inch a day!
 - * Their large mats interfere with swimming and boating.
- ⇒ Milfoil and other invasive plants spread by rerooting from tiny broken off segments of the plant.
- ⇒ It takes only a tiny piece of broken off milfoil to start a new colony.
- ⇒ Even dried bits of a plant on a boat or trailer can start a new colony, when a boat is launched and the fragment takes root in a new site. This is the primary source of invasive plant infestation.

The best way to deal with aggressive, invasive plants is **Prevention**. Once established, they are virtually impossible to eradicate. Lakes infested with milfoil spend \$1,000's per year to try to control its spread.



Keep Lake Sunapee from looking like this

- Be Vigilant - watch plants along your shoreline
- Call LSPA if you spot a suspect plant
- Clean boats and diving equipment before launch
- Do not empty bait cans, bilges, or aquariums near lakes or streams

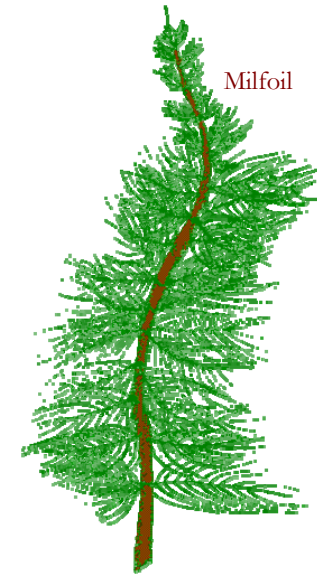
LSPA has in place an
Invasive Plant Prevention Program .
Call our office to find out how
you can be involved.



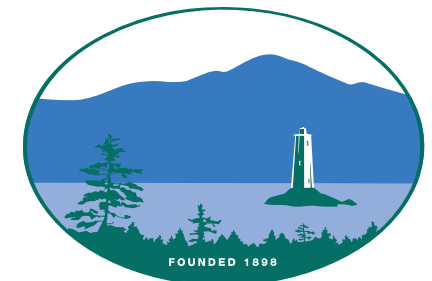
LSPA

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Invasive Aquatic Plants



What can we do?



Lake Sunapee's Invasive Plant Program

Lake Sunapee Homeowner's Role

Become familiar with the plant along your shore. Use LSPA and NH Department of Environmental Services publications to **identify** your plants, and learn the native, helpful plants.

Join LSPA's **Weed Watchers** for training and support.

Monitor your shoreline: Check plant growth with a swim mask or from a small boat, three times during the summer.

Notify LSPA if you spot a suspicious plant. Drop a weight attached to a float to mark the location. Call the LSPA office (763-2210). A local weed watch captain or an LSPA staff member will contact you to follow up on the suspect plant and identify it with certainty, using microscopic examination if necessary.

If a plant along your shorefront has been definitively identified as an invasive species, LSPA and NH DES will initiate Sunapee's action response plan.

Talk to any visiting friends or renters using your property. Ask them to be sure to carefully **clean boats, motors, diving equipment and trailers before launching** in Lake Sunapee. Any clinging bits of vegetation, even if dried, should be removed and carefully disposed of in the trash or in a compost pile.

Lake Sunapee's Visiting Boaters

Invasive Aquatic plants most often are transported unknowingly by boaters, divers or fishermen on their trailers, boats or equipment.

Some Lake Sunapee area businesses offer **boat washes** on major roads that lead to the lake. Please take advantage of the chance to clear your boat of any clinging vegetation which could start an infestation in Lake Sunapee.

LSPA's **Lake Host** education and inspection program is active at the major launch ramps on the lake. Visitors can pick up literature and fill out surveys during the week. ON weekends and holidays, LSPA Lake Host talk with launching boaters and check their boats. Signs about milfoil are in place at all launch ramps.

We believe that education and understanding are key allies in our vigilance on invasive plants.



Variable Milfoil

LSPA's Role

Since 2000, LSPA has done surveys and mapping of areas most vulnerable to invasive plant infestation, for vigilant monitoring by trained volunteer.

Establishment of a network of shoreline monitor "**Weed Watches**" to inspect their shore frontage regularly and note any new plant growth.

Response by LSPA experts to suspect plant growth, for definite identification.

A full **action response** plan. It was used in 2001 to control invasive milfoil in Georges Mills. Since invasive plants spread so easily, removal method must be appropriate to the level of infestation.

- NH DES support
- handweeding by experts
- roped off areas
- bottom barriers
- increased inspection

All these elements have been used in Georges Mills.

Encouragement of **boat washing** stations for boaters approaching the Sunapee area.

Launch site monitoring and education of transient boaters: see the center section.