



# Fort Meadow Commission

C/o Marlborough Conservation Commission  
140 Main Street  
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752  
Tel. (508) 460-3768 Facsimile (508) 460-3700

May 28, 2021

Dear Abutter to Ft. Meadow Reservoir,

RE: Herbicide Treatment of Ft. Meadow Reservoir Wednesday June 9, 2021

Please be aware that a portion of Ft. Meadow Reservoir, located in Marlborough and Hudson, will be treated on Wednesday June 9, 2021 by Solitude Lake Management to control Eurasian water milfoil and variable watermilfoil. These species of plants are invasive, non-native weeds that, if not controlled, will spread and grow rapidly and choke the lake making boating, swimming, and fishing difficult. The hatched area shown on the attached map is the area where spot treatment will occur. This poster will be posted at all entrances to the lake and all beaches.

The areas shown on the map will be spot treated with an herbicide called Reward (active ingredient diquat) to specifically control the water milfoil. This spot treatment will not adversely affect the native plants that are important to a healthy lake. The lake is monitored annually, and spot treated annually or as needed to help keep these weeds under control.

The lake water use will be restricted within the three basin areas noted IN THE ATTACHED map as follows beginning on the day of treatment.

1. We request that no boating or swimming take place on Wednesday June 9, 2021 the day of application to allow maximum contact of the herbicide with the weeds. This restriction is for the entire lake! (There is no harm in swimming or fishing the day of application, but to maximize effectiveness we prefer you refrain). You may resume boating and swimming on Thursday June 10, 2021.
2. No watering of livestock (including pets) until Thursday June 10, 2021.
3. No drinking or cooking with lake water until Saturday June 12, 2021.
4. No irrigation with lake water until Monday June 14, 2021 as the herbicide may harm your lawn and plants.

Once treatment is completed, lake users should do their part by checking boats and trailers for weeds when taking boats in and out of the water. This will ensure that we are not reintroducing the weeds from other lakes into Ft. Meadow Reservoir and vice versa. Please check boats and boat trailers for hitchhiker weeds and remove them. See attached brochure for other ways residents can keep the lake weed-free.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact the Marlborough Conservation Commission at (508) 460-3768; Hudson Conservation Commission at 978-562-2948 or Solitude Lake Management at (508) 865-1000.

Sincerely,

Lee Thomson

Chairman

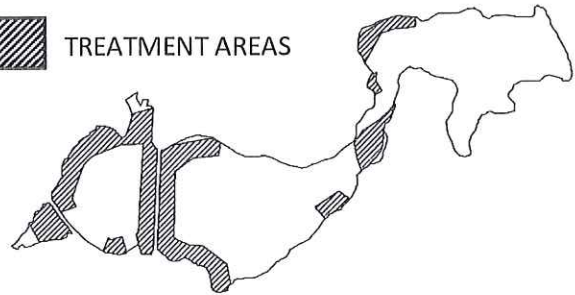
e-mail: Mayor; City Council  
Hudson Town Manager, Selectmen  
Hudson and Marlborough Con. Com,

Portions of Fort Meadow Reservoir to be Chemically Treated  
on Wednesday, June 9th

# WARNING

**THESE WATERS HAVE  
BEEN CHEMICALLY  
TREATED TO CONTROL THE  
GROWTH OF NUISANCE  
AQUATIC VEGETATION**

 TREATMENT AREAS



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**BEGINNING ON JUNE 9, DO NOT USE THE WATER FOR THE  
FOLLOWING PURPOSE(S) UNTIL THE DATE NOTED BELOW:**

<b>DRINKING AND COOKING</b>	<b>06/12/21</b>
<b>BOATING, FISHING AND SWIMMING</b>	<b>06/10/21</b>
<b>WATERING OF LIVESTOCK</b>	<b>06/10/21</b>
<b>IRRIGATION</b>	<b>06/14/21</b>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**



**590 Lake Street**  
**Shrewsbury, MA 01545**  
**508-865-1000**

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**THIS CHEMICAL TREATMENT IS BEING CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (MASSDEP) AND AN ORDER OF  
CONDITIONS ISSUED BY THE MARLBOROUGH AND HUDSON CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS**



## How can you help?

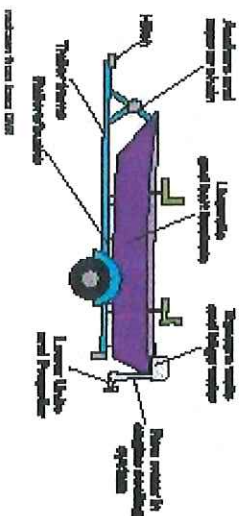


- Remove all plants and animals from your boat motor, trailer, anchors, fishing gear, and dive gear and dispose of them on dry land, well away from the water or in a trash can.
- Flush engines and dispose of livewell, bait bucket, and cooling water away from the shore after each use.
- Never release any plant or animal into a body of water unless it came out of that body of water.
- Never empty aquariums into a waterbody.
- Inspect and wash your boat, preferably with hot water, and allow it to completely dry before entering another body of water.
- Request a free sign for your boat ramp.
- Familiarize yourself with invasive species by requesting one of our free guides.
- Join the Massachusetts Weed Watchers Program and help identify and report new infestations.

**DCR Lakes and Ponds Program**  
**251 Causeway Street, Suite 600**  
**Boston, MA 02114**  
**617-626-1411**  
[www.mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds)

## Remember!

**Always remove all plant and animal fragments from your boat, trailer and gear. Dispose of livewell, bait bucket, and cooling water well away from the shore.**



Aquatic plants caught on boat trailer.

(Left: Ash/ron WDA)



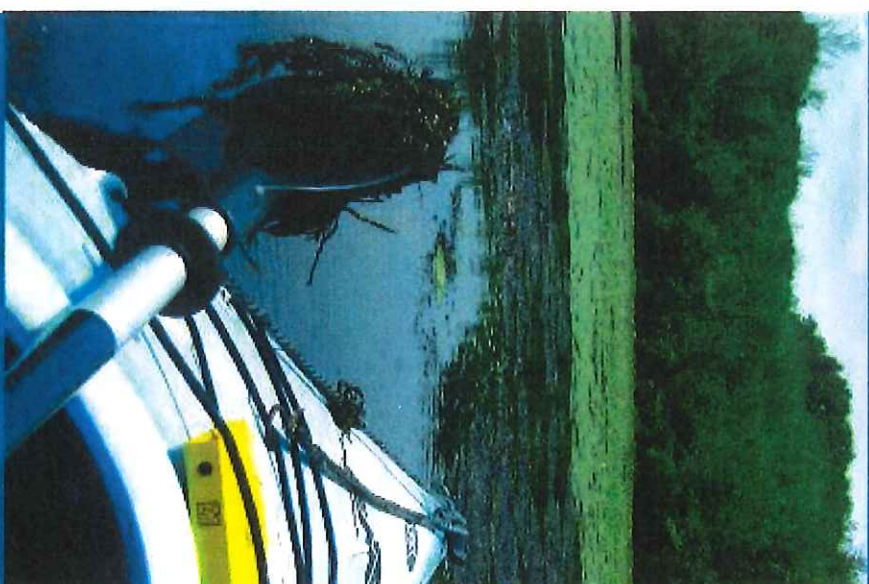
## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
 Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.protectourwaters.net](http://www.protectourwaters.net)

**To prevent the spread of Didymo (an invasive alga) and other invasive organisms, check, clean and dry all gear. Soak felt soled waders in hot soapy water for 30 minutes and allow to completely dry.**

Printed 2008

**dcr**  
 Massachusetts  
**Lakes and Ponds Program**



**Prevent the spread of invasive species**

**ATTENTION BOATERS!**



## What are invasive species?

Our lakes contain a wide variety of native plants and animals that are essential to a healthy lake ecosystem. These native species originated here in New England and are well adapted to our climate and to the other species that live here. However, many "non-native" or "exotic" species have been brought here from other parts of the country and the world. Some of these species are considered "invasive" because they are able to dominate or significantly alter an area's ecology. Once established, they continue to spread to additional locations by hitching rides on boats, trailers, gear, and in bait buckets.

When invasive species enter a water body, they can have a devastating impact. Since the local ecosystem has not developed natural controls (animals or other plants to limit their growth) invasive species may spread rapidly.

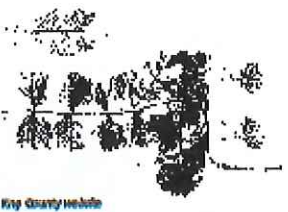


## Why are they harmful?

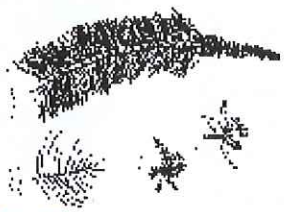
- Many invasive plants form dense mats of vegetation that can restrict boating, fishing, and swimming, and make the waterway entirely impassable.
- Many native plants and animals cannot compete for space or food with exotic species, and are crowded out or eliminated from the area.
- The aesthetic appeal, recreational value, and surrounding property values may quickly decline as the invasive species take over.
- The microscopic larval stage of Zebra Mussel and Asian Clam can easily travel undetected in bilge, bait, and livewell water. They can proliferate at an alarming rate and frequently destroy boat motors, buoys, and fishing gear. Their razor sharp shells often create a hazard for beach visitors.
- Once invasive plants and animals are established, they are almost impossible to eradicate.

# Invasive Plants and Animals

A few of the invasive species to watch for...



Eurasian Milfoil  
Key County Website



Variable Milfoil  
Maine DEP



Water Chestnut  
Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England



Parrot Feather  
Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL



Farwort  
Key County Website



Curly-leaved Pondweed  
Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL



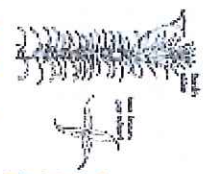
Zebra Mussel  
Clark MacPherson Wisconsin Zoo Grant



Asian Clam  
Connecticut Sea Grant College



Hydrilla  
Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL



South American Waterweed  
Center for Invasive & Aquatic Plants FL



Snakehead Fish

**If you think you have caught a Snakehead do not put it back in the water. Please freeze the fish and contact the DCR Lakes and Ponds program immediately.**