

# Lake Chetac

## 2013 Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Herbicide Treatment Results & FAQ



The DNR received many inquiries and questions regarding the spring 2013 CLP herbicide treatment on Lake Chetac. This document is intended to provide a brief summary of the treatment results and answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

### **Treatment Results Summary**

The herbicide, Aquathol K, was applied at a concentration of 1.5 ppm active ingredient. Aquathol K is applied at 1.5 ppm on many area lakes for the control of CLP. Herbicide concentration monitoring occurred at 3 sites within the treatment area. Using the mean concentrations of the 3 sites, the target concentration of 1.5 ppm was reached at about 6 hours following treatment and dissipated to below the target concentration after 9 hours. Herbicide concentration monitoring also occurred at 3 sites south of the sand bar narrows. No herbicide was detected at the three sites south of the sand bar.

The herbicide treatment was significantly effective in controlling CLP within the North bay treatment area. In May, 2013, prior to treatment, CLP was found at 82% of the sample points. In June 2013, after the treatment, CLP was found at 0.5% of the sample points. Conversely, CLP was found at more points and at greater densities in both the untreated west side control bay and the untreated east side boat landing bay in the June survey as compared to the May survey.

Three native plant species declined significantly in the North bay following the herbicide treatment as compared to the May pretreatment survey data. These three species are commonly impacted by Aquathol K treatments in other area lakes. However, there were no significant declines of native aquatic plants in either of the untreated bays following the treatment in the North bay. The DNR plans to work with BCABLA to evaluate options to reduce any impacts to native plants in future herbicide treatments.

Full reports are available at the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association (BCABLA) website <http://bcabla.com/home.html>.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

- **Is the BCABLA following their Lake Management Plan?**
  - Yes. The BCABLA have been awarded 3 grants between 2012 and 2013 from DNR to implement several activities from their DNR approved 2010 Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. The herbicide treatment for CLP control was just one activity within their Plan. For more BCABLA activities please visit their website at <http://bcabla.com/home.html>.
  
- **Who can apply for a grant from the DNR?**
  - Many types of organizations can apply. The most common grant applicants tend to be Qualified Lake Associations, Lake Districts, and Counties. The requirements for grant applicants can be found on the DNR Grants websites: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LakeMgmtPlanning.html> and <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/AIS.html>.

- **What are management options to control CLP?**
  - The most common management options for CLP control include manual, mechanical, and chemical control. No control is also a management option for some lakes. UW – Extension has a fact sheet that outlines alternatives for aquatic plant control <http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/ecology/APM/Appendix-E.pdf>.
  
- **Who can apply for an Aquatic Plant Management Permit from the DNR?**
  - Generally, anyone can apply for an Aquatic Plant Management Permit. Information on APM permit requirements can be found on the DNR Aquatic Plants website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/>.
  
- **Were the public notices for the Lake Management Plan and Aquatic Plant Management Permit adequate?**
  - BCABLA publicly noticed the Plan and Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Permit according to the DNR Administrative Code requirements.
  
- **Which herbicide was used for the 2013 chemical treatment?**
  - The herbicide is called Aquathol K. It is a dipotassium salt formulation of endothall and is commonly used for CLP control on many area lakes. Fact sheets are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/factsheets/EndothallFactsheet.pdf> and <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/factsheets/GeneralherbicideFAQ.pdf>.
  
- **Was the herbicide treatment responsible for the June fish kill?**
  - No. The fish kill that affected the bluegills and crappies was due to a bacterial infection called Columnaris. Columnaris infections are common around area lakes and are most prevalent when fish are stressed from spawning. Columnaris fish kills were reported on area lakes that didn't have any herbicide treatments in 2013. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/fishhealth/columnaris.html>
  
- **Did the herbicide treatment kill CLP outside the 90.8 acres in the North Bay?**
  - The herbicide spread throughout the North basin and did control the CLP as far south as the sand bar. In effect, the treatment acted like a low dose, whole basin treatment. Several area lakes conduct low dose whole lake/basin treatments as recommended in their management plans. Reports are posted on the BCABLA website at <http://bcabla.com/home.html>.
  
- **Did the herbicide treatment kill native plants?**
  - As expected, the herbicide treatment did impact some native plants in the treatment area that are similar in nature to CLP. However, the post treatment plant data illustrates that the treatment did not kill all native plants in that area. The herbicide treatment did not affect native plants south of the sand bar. Reports are posted on the BCABLA website <http://bcabla.com/home.html>.