

Chemical Tools for Lakes and Ponds

By Jim Schmidt

A variety of chemical "tools" are available to effectively and selectively manage most aquatic vegetation problems. Today's products have withstood the rigors of current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements and the ongoing re-registration standards. A sampling of products, descriptions and manufacturers follows. As with all chemical products, *read the entire label before choosing and using the product.*

Aquashade (Applied Biochemists Inc.). This product is the *only* EPA-registered and patented lake and pond dye for use in aquatic plant growth control. It functions by restricting the penetration of certain wavelengths of light into the water column, thereby suppressing photosynthesis. There are no water-use restrictions on swimming, fishing or irrigation following treatment. Shoreline and surface growth will be unaffected. The water retains an aqua-blue coloration fol-

lowing treatment, which should be periodically maintained with subsequent dosing.

Aquathol (Actochem Inc.). A contact herbicide with dipotassium endothal as its active ingredient. Effectively controls a fairly broad range of submerged aquatic vegetation, especially those belonging to the pondweed (*Potamogeton spp.*) genus. The product is also available in granular formulation for spot treatments. Water-user restrictions are: one day no swimming, three days no fish consumption, and seven to 21 days no irrigation (depending on the dosage used). Bentgrasses, however, can be irrigated immediately.

Citrine-Plus (Applied Biochemists Inc.). A concentrated, chelated copper algicide containing 9-percent copper as its active ingredient. Chelation holds the copper in solution under a wide variety of water quality conditions. This provides a longer contact time and longer control at lower dosages than copper sulfate. Citrine-Plus controls

planktonic (suspended), filamentous (mat-forming) and bottom-growing (Chara) forms of algae. There are no water-use restrictions following treatment. The product is also available in a granular formulation for use on bottom-growing algae.

Hydrothol 191 (Elf Atochem). A herbicide-algicide effective against a wide range of submersed aquatic weeds and algae. Water-use restrictions are: 3 days no fish consumption, 7 to 25 days no domestic or livestock use. Liquid and granular formulations are available.

Komeen (Griffin Corp.). A copper-ethylenediamine complex herbicide effective on hydrilla, elodea and southern naiad. No restrictions on water usage at label rates.

K-Tea (Griffin Corp.). A chelated copper algicide effective against planktonic, filamentous and chara algae. No restrictions on water use following application at the recommended rates. Works in hard water.

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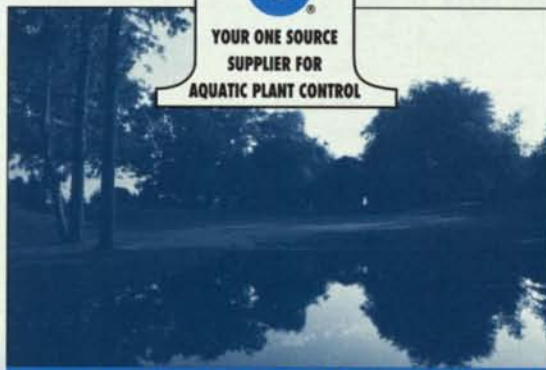
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Navigate (Applied Biochemists Inc.). A granular 2,4-D ester formulation specifically labeled for aquatic use. This is a systemic herbicide that selectively controls certain troublesome aquatic species such as water milfoil, coontail, water lilies and several emergent shoreline species. It is best used early in the season, before plants mature. Follow label instructions for water-use restrictions.

Reward (Zeneca Inc.). Formerly Diquat under the Valent label, this is a fairly broad-range contact herbicide that can be used on a variety of submerged, floating and emergent species. Water-use restrictions are: 24 hours no swimming and 14 days no irrigation, stock watering and domestic use. There are no restrictions on fish consumption.

Rodeo (Monsanto). Rodeo is a systemic herbicide containing glyphosate.

It is effective in controlling a wide variety of shoreline, emergent and floating leaved aquatic species. A selection of dosages are provided on the label for species-specific control ranging from grasses to woody vegetation. It is necessary to utilize an adjuvant in conjunction with Rodeo to insure proper coverage of foliage and enhance plant uptake. No water-use restrictions follow treatment.

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Sonar (Dow-Elanco). A systemic aquatic herbicide containing fluridone as its active ingredient. Although it can be used to control a wide range of species, dosage rates can be adjusted to provide selective control of particularly troublesome plants. There are no restrictions on fishing and swimming following treatment. Consult the label for irrigation restrictions, which vary, depending on dosage and use site. □

Editor's note: Jim Schmidt is a product manager for Applied Biochemists Inc. in Milwaukee, WI.

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