

## How Homeowners Can Manage Milfoil and Other Aquatic Weeds

Cascade Water Alliance does not treat native, aquatic plants. Cascade does manage the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive, non-native, aquatic plant. Cascade has managed Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Tapps since 2010, including aquatic herbicides, diver hand-pulling, and pilot studies with bottom barriers. For a summary of Cascade's treatment programs, see [www.cascadewater.org/milfoil](http://www.cascadewater.org/milfoil).

If property owners plan to remove aquatic plants from Lake Tapps in front of their property, **they must follow rules** outlined in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's "*Rules for Aquatic Plant Removal and Control*", located at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01728>, and obtain any necessary permits from appropriate agencies, such as Bonney Lake, Pierce County, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### Hand Removal of Aquatic Plants:

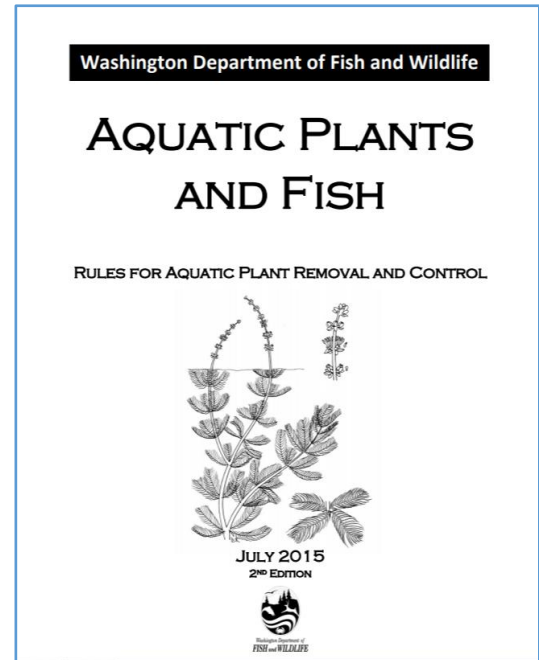
Hand removal of aquatic plants can be effective for small, confined areas. When removing beneficial, aquatic plants, no more than ten linear feet of the applicant's shoreline can be removed or an individual Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit is required. Milfoil does not have this area limitation. Milfoil can re-grow from pieces floating in the water, so remove the entire plant and dispose it at an upland site where it cannot re-enter the water.

### Bottom Barriers:

Bottom barriers are synthetic or natural fiber material used to cover and kill plants growing on the lake bottom, anchored with sandbags, bags of pea gravel, or rocks. Bottom barriers are best used in small, confined areas where control of all plants is needed. When removing native, aquatic plants, the bottom barrier may cover no more than ten linear feet of the applicant's shoreline or an individual HPA permit is required. When removing noxious, non-native, aquatic plants, such as milfoil, the bottom barrier may cover no more than fifty percent of the applicant's shoreline. Bottom barriers consisting of biodegradable material may be left in place. If the materials are not biodegradable, the barrier must be removed within two years of placement to encourage aquatic beneficial plants.

### Reduction or Elimination of Excess Nutrients:

Nutrients from lawns and septic tanks can significantly increase vegetation in the reservoir, so using the right fertilizer, reducing fertilizer applications, and keeping septic tanks maintained and working properly will reduce aquatic plant growth. Residents are encouraged to participate in the TappsWise program to help keep Lake Tapps clean and healthy. Find out more about the TappsWise program at [www.tpchd.org/TappsWise](http://www.tpchd.org/TappsWise).



<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01728>.