

AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



RESIDENTIAL

Herbicide Applicator/Contractor Program

Aquatic vegetation has many benefits to our lakes. It provides food, shelter, breeding habitat for fish and wildlife, oxygenation of water, and aesthetics. Some species of aquatic vegetation also help buffer wave action and help with shoreline stability. However, some aquatic plants, especially non-native species, can interrupt enjoyment of lakes and reservoirs during the summer months. They can prevent access to docks and even make navigating main channels of a lake very difficult.

Georgia Power issues permits to lake residents for controlling aquatic nuisance vegetation near their lake lots by contracting with licensed herbicide applicators.



Requirement

Permit application required

Complete application and contact your local land management office.

More than one application may be required to effectively treat area, consult with your contrator/applicator.

Final approval is by Georgia Power shoreline representatives only.



Restriction

Licensed Aquatic Herbicide applicator must be used

List is on file at your local land management office.

Area treated can be no larger than 1/2 acre.

Treated area must be within the confines of the projected property lines



Cost/Payment

Cost is determined by contractor/applicator.

Payment will be made directly to the contractor/applicator and is the responsibility of the property owner or lessee.



PERMIT CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- 1. Licensed Applicator must perform the herbicide treatment in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and guidance.
- 2. Herbicides must only be applied by State Certified Aquatic Pesticide Applicators. More specifically, (a) any Licensed Applicator intending to treat nuisance aquatic weeds on a reservoir wholly within the State of Georgia must have a valid Category 26 Aquatic Pest Control Applicator License and Certification from the Georgia Department of Agriculture; and (b) any applicator treating nuisance aquatic weeds on a reservoir partially within Georgia and partially within another state must have the above mentioned certification and a valid Commercial Aquatic Pest Control Applicator License/Certification from the other state (e.g., for Alabama, a Category 5 Aquatic Pest Control Commercial Applicator License from the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries).
- 3. Licensed Applicator must use, store, and manage all herbicides in strict conformance with all federal and state product labels (e.g., labels approved by the U.S. EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act).
- 4. Licensed Applicator must post water use restrictions (and otherwise warn/notify potentially impacted persons) in accordance with the herbicide label and best professional judgment. Licensed Applicator must also provide additional warning/notice as appropriate to ensure the protection of public and environmental health and safety and to prevent any and all property damage. Licensed Applicator must also ensure any and all persons or entities operating water withdrawal systems in the vicinity are provided actual notice prior to the herbicide treatment. Licensed Applicator is advised that lawns and vegetable gardens may be irrigated from the reservoir and must take into account any and all such irrigation before performing the herbicide treatments.
- 5. Applicators and Property Owners must ensure that herbicide treatment is performed to ensure the protection of public and environmental health and safety and to prevent any and all property damage, including, without limitation, the health of non-target vegetation, wildlife, fish, and pets.
- 6. Herbicide and pesticide application must be in strict compliance with the State of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, General NPDES Permit For Discharges of Aquatic Pesticides to Waters of the State (GAG820000) and, where applicable, the State of Alabama, Department of Environmental Management, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Discharges from the Application of Pesticides (ALG870000).
- 7. Applicators must, wherever possible, use only herbicides categorized as "general use" by the U.S. EPA.
- 8. A single herbicide application cannot be performed piecemeal. And, except where prudent to protect public safety and the safety of the Applicator, herbicide application must be continuous and uninterrupted.
- 9. Applicators must, as soon as safely possible, notify Georgia Power in the event that an unauthorized application (or discharge) has occurred or a dangerous situation has arisen with respect to the herbicide treatment.
- 10. Applicators are prohibited from performing herbicide applications on weekends or federal holidays and must plan, schedule, and implement the applications to ensure that there are no water use restrictions in effect on weekend days or federal holidays. Under unique and rare circumstances, written waivers of the requirements of this Paragraph 10 may be obtained from the applicable Land Management Office (see contact information below).



GEORGIA POWER

Georgia Power routinely surveys our lakes for all types of potential issues including nuisance aquatic plants, and lake residents and shoreline visitors also help us identify problem areas. Depending on the species of plant, location, and size of the infestation, the Georgia Power Lake Resources Office may coordinate herbicide treatments to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation. Our primary objective is to help maintain navigation access to the main lake body and our recreation areas. Georgia Power does not treat around individual docks, boathouses or other private structures. Our herbicide treatments are small scale in nature and specifically targeted to problem areas and plants, we do not prescribe whole lake treatments.