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Every year, pond managers and owners fight excessive weeds in an effort to create an aesthetically pleasing look with a great fishing experience for them to enjoy with their friends and families. This fight can sometimes feel overwhelming, and without a good plan, it can end in failure. There are three main methods of combating weeds within a pond or lake to choose from including mechanical, biological, and chemical.

Generally, when aquatic plants cover more than twenty percent of a pond they are considered a problem. If this is the case, the next step is to identify the weed or weeds that are present. A pond manager choosing a chemical treatment must decide from the different chemicals available for aquatic applications. Unfortunately, not all of them work in all situations. It is very important to use the proper chemical and the appropriate application rate. Using the wrong type of chemical or the wrong concentration of a chemical can result in wasted time, money, as well as risk the water quality of the pond, and potentially fail all together.

Once a weed is identified and the appropriate treatment is known, the application method should be managed to minimize the impact on the water quality of the pond. To accomplish this, an entire pond should never be treated at one time. Treatments should be divided up and be spaced by two weeks. This will allow the pond to assimilate the decaying plant material and help to minimize any impact on the dissolved oxygen levels

in the pond. The best time of year to treat a pond is the spring. Water temperatures are still somewhat cooler, and the weeds are actively growing making them more susceptible to chemical treatments.

If you have a weed problem in your pond and are unsure of the type of weed, contact your county extension agent or this office. A correct diagnosis can save you both time and money, and greatly improve the potential for success in your management plan.

For additional questions or information, contact P.J. Waters, Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center, 438-5690.