



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## MEDIA ADVISORY

April 13, 2009

**CONTACT:**

**Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

follow us on 

**Hydrilla Treatment Planned for Kissimmee Chain of Lakes**  
*District to apply herbicide to approximately 1,200 acres in three lakes to control  
invasive plant*

**Kissimmee, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are preparing for a significant effort to control invasive hydrilla growing over approximately 1,200 acres in lakes Kissimmee, Jackson and Hatchineha. The plants can clog waterways, impede navigation and impact wildlife.

Working in cooperation with the FWC Invasive Plant Management Section, the SFWMD Vegetation Management Division will apply the herbicide Endothall, in both liquid and pellet form, over impacted areas of the lakes. The herbicide's use, according to federal label directions, has been found to be safe for human activities, fish and other wildlife.

The treatment is scheduled to begin April 14 and is expected to last two days. While there are no restrictions on fishing or boating activities in these lakes during the treatments, the public is asked to keep a safe distance from workers.

Since it was first introduced as an ornamental aquarium plant in the 1950s, the rapidly growing hydrilla has invaded most of Florida's ponds, rivers and waterways. The plant can grow in underwater stands or surface mats and is easily transferred by boat traffic.

Hydrilla slows water flow and can clog structures in District canals that must be kept clear for effective flood control. If left unchecked, the plant could also destroy fish and wildlife habitat and limit access to waterways by clogging boat motors.

The SFWMD Vegetation Management Division is responsible for managing nuisance and invasive exotic vegetation throughout the 16-county District. The implementation of a vegetation management program is necessary to ensure the continued use and

function of the region's water resources and preservation of South Florida's conservation lands.

DATE	LOCATION	TREATMENT	LOCATION MAP
April 14	Lake Kissimmee	500 acres	<a href="#">Kissimmee Map</a>
	Lake Jackson	250 acres	<a href="#">Jackson Map</a>
	Lake Hatchineha	250 acres	<a href="#">Hatchineha Map</a>
April 15*	Lake Kissimmee	200 acres 500 previously treated acres will be treated with a second herbicide.	<a href="#">Kissimmee Map</a>

\* Any additional work necessary is scheduled to be completed on April 16.

For more information on vegetation management efforts, please visit the District's Web site at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov), or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Web site at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

###

**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*