



Attention Neighbors!

Duckweed in Our Pond: What You Need to Know

What is Duckweed?

Duckweed is a tiny aquatic plant that floats on the surface of ponds, lakes, and slow-moving waters. It's often a sign of a healthy ecosystem! While it can provide benefits to our ecosystem, excessive growth may cause issues we should address together.

Why is Duckweed Important?

- **Natural Habitat:** Provides food and shelter for fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- **Water Quality & Filtration:** Helps filter water and can absorb excess nutrients, improving overall water quality and pond health.
- **Biodiversity:** Supports various aquatic species and promotes a balanced ecosystem.

Where Did it Come From?

- **Animal Movement:** Birds, particularly waterfowl, can carry duckweed on their feet or feathers, inadvertently introducing it to new locations.
- **Human Activity:** Duckweed can be spread through gardening, landscaping, or aquarium trade, as people may inadvertently transport it when moving plants or water.

Benefits of Duckweed:

- **Erosion Control:** Stabilizes shorelines and reduces erosion.
- **Oxygen Production:** Contributes to oxygen levels in the water, supporting aquatic life.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Helps in capturing carbon from the atmosphere.

Does Duckweed Smell?

Duckweed itself typically does not produce a noticeable odor. However, if it grows excessively and then begins to die off, the decomposition process can lead to unpleasant smells. This is especially true if the decaying plant material results in low oxygen levels in the water, which can contribute to foul odors from the pond.

When is Duckweed a Problem?

- **Aesthetic Concerns:** Thick layers of duckweed may make the pond look uninviting (almost algae-like).
- **Maintenance Challenges:** Managing duckweed can require regular removal efforts, which may be labor-intensive and costly for communities (e.g., harvesting with nets, treating with expensive herbicides).
- **Overgrowth:** Can block sunlight and reduce oxygen, harming aquatic life.

How You Can Help:

- **Keep Perspective:** This pond was originally built to solely contain excess stormwater/ overflow, it was not originally intended to be a part of the community aesthetic landscape.
 - There is no fresh water entering this pond, it is not connected to any waterway. During summer months, the only source of water for this pond is groundwater.
 - As the population in this area has increased, this pond has become a nice addition to the landscape mimicking a park-like setting. The District understands this, and is putting forth their best efforts in maintaining this pond beyond its primary function as simply a stormwater pond.
- **Educate:** Share this information with family, friends, and neighbors!

For More Information:

Contact Reclamation District 900

(916) 371-1483

Email: admin@rd900.gov

Let's work together to protect our local ecosystem!

