



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
933 EAST COURT STREET · SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155 · FAX [830] 379-9718

## **Water hyacinth treatment rescheduled at Lakes H-4 and H-5**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 19, 2000

Contact: Judy Gardner, [830] 379-5822 or email [jgardner@gbra.org](mailto:jgardner@gbra.org)

SEGUIN- Due to high wind conditions, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has rescheduled application of the aquatic herbicide Weedar 64 at Lakes H-4 and H-5 (Lake Wood) in Gonzales County. On Monday May 22 and Tuesday May 23, ten acres of water hyacinth at Lake H-4 will be treated to help control the growth and spread of this nuisance aquatic plant. The treatment schedule for fifteen acres of water hyacinth at Lake H-5 (Lake Wood) will be announced at a later date. Advisory signs explaining use restrictions will be posted in all treatment areas.

Weedar 64, whose active ingredient is 2,4-D, is approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and is routinely used at a number of sites in Texas for aquatic vegetation control, said GBRA director of water quality services Debbie Magin.

According to Magin, Weedar use restrictions -- which are normally in place for a maximum of three weeks -- could be lifted as early as 10 A.M. the day after the last application. This would happen if a laboratory analysis of water samples shows the concentration of 2,4-D to be less than 0.1 parts per million (ppm). "This is possible because Lakes H-4 and H-5 are used for hydrogeneration purposes and it only takes four hours to send enough water through the system to completely replace the water volume in each lake," Magin said.

To determine the earliest date that use restrictions will be lifted, Magin said GBRA will collect water samples for background levels prior to the application and again immediately after the application. "We will also sample following the hydroelectric generation period on the day of application, and each day thereafter, until our assay determines that the concentration is less than 0.1 ppm."

The Gonzales County Water Supply Corporation, whose raw water intake is on Lake H-5 (Lake Wood), has been working with GBRA in the development of the treatment plan. They will be using an alternative water supply throughout the treatment process and will not use Lake Wood as a raw water source until water sample assays show less than 0.1 ppm.

As use restrictions are lifted for each lake, advisory signs will be removed and GBRA will notify the public through the local radio station and newspaper. **Until then, water from the treated areas should not be used for domestic purposes, irrigation or contact recreation.**

The applications comply with policy guidelines adopted by GBRA's Board of Directors governing the treatment of nuisance aquatic vegetation in lakes and reservoirs operated by GBRA. "The policy creates the general framework necessary to manage nuisance aquatic vegetation to protect water access, quality, public health and safety while balancing the needs of a healthy aquatic ecosystem," said Magin.

The policy also provides for review by a public advisory committee. The treatment plan for Lakes H-4 and H-5 was developed with the assistance of a committee of residents from both lakes, and representatives from the Gonzales County Water Supply Corporation and other clubs and organizations. This group met several times to help develop and review the treatment plan, and homeowner organizations from each lake are funding the cost of the herbicide, Magin said.

Additional information is available at the GBRA General Office, 933 East Court Street in Seguin. For specific information about the project or the aquatic herbicide, contact Magin at 830/379-5822.