



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA will treat Lake H-4 to control water hyacinth and hydrilla

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SEGUIN- During the week of May 21, 2001, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority will apply the aquatic herbicide Tenkoz to three acres of water hyacinth and the aquatic herbicide, Aquathol K, to 1.3 acres of hydrilla at Lake H-4 in Gonzales County to help control the growth and spread of these nuisance aquatic plants.

Tenkoz, whose active ingredient is 2,4-D, and Aquathol K, whose active ingredient is endothall, are approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and are 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, aquatic herbicide use restrictions -- which would normally be in place for a maximum of three weeks -- could be lifted as early as 10 A.M. the day after the application, if the laboratory analysis of water samples shows the concentration of both 2,4-D and endothall to be less than 0.1 parts per million (ppm) each.

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 the following day, and each day thereafter, until our assay determines that the concentrations are less than 0.1 ppm."

As use restrictions are lifted for Lake H-4, 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 application of these herbicides will 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, and public health and safety while balancing the needs of a healthy aquatic ecosystem," said Magin. The treatment proposal has been submitted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and approved, in compliance with the new Statewide Vegetation Management Plan.

The GBRA vegetation management policy also provides for review by a public advisory committee. The treatment plan for Lake H-4 was developed with the assistance of a committee of residents from area lakes, representatives from area water supply corporations, lake user groups and organizations who met to review the current treatment plan.

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