



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **GBRA returns to H-4 for second treatment of water hyacinth**

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SEGUIN- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority has authorized a second treatment of nuisance aquatic vegetation in Lake H-4 that will take place the week of June 11, 2001. The original treatment of 2.5 acres of water hyacinth occurred on May 30. However, areas designated for treatment were extremely infested with water hyacinth which prevented access to the vegetation.

The aquatic herbicide Tenkoz will be applied to an additional 2.5 acres of water hyacinth in Lake H-4 in Gonzales County in an attempt to increase public access and to help control the growth and spread of this vegetation.

Water use restrictions in place after the first treatment were removed from Lake H-4 on Monday, June 4, 2001, when laboratory analyses indicated the level of the herbicide was below detectable concentrations. Signage giving the new restriction dates will be posted with the second application. Water recreationists are urged to observe the new application dates and use restrictions that will be in place during the treatment process.

Tenkoz, 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, aquatic herbicide use restrictions -- which would normally be in place for a maximum of three weeks -- will be lifted as soon as possible following the treatment, when the laboratory analysis of water samples show the concentration of 2,4-D to be less than 0.1 parts per million (ppm).

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. **Until then, water from the treated areas should not be used for domestic purposes, irrigation or contact recreation.**

The application of the herbicide 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. Residents from the Lake H-4 area contributed \$1500 toward the costs associated with the two treatments.

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.