



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA will treat Gonzales area lakes to control water hyacinth

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SEGUIN- Beginning April 29, 2002, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) will apply a the aquatic herbicides Weedar 64 and Reward to 47 acres of water hyacinth in Lake Gonzales (H-4) and Lake Wood (H-5) to help improve access to these lakes.

"Weedar 64, whose active ingredient is 2,4-D, is approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency," said Magin. "It will be used on 21 acres of water hyacinth infesting Lake Gonzales, and 15 acres of the nuisance plant found in upper Lake Wood. Weedar 64 will only be used on Lake Wood in the area outside of one-half mile of the Gonzales County Water Supply Corporation intake that is located near the dam. Reward is also an EPA approved aquatic herbicide. This herbicide will be used on the 11 acres of water hyacinth that are found inside the one-half mile treatment zone. The Gonzales County WSC will suspend pumping from the lake for up to 30 hours and use its alternative water sources".

The application of these herbicides complies 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 (TPWD) and approved, in compliance with the Statewide Vegetation Management Plan.

According to Magin, the TPWD Statewide Vegetation Management Plan requires anyone, including individual homeowners, to submit a treatment proposal to GBRA and TPWD before they can remove any nuisance vegetation from their property or waterfront. This includes removal by hand as well as use of herbicides. "We want the public to understand the requirements of the statewide plan so that they will follow the proper procedures to stay within the law," said Magin.

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

Additional information about the Gonzales area treatments and the Statewide Vegetation Management Plan is available at the GBRA General Office, 933 East Court Street in Seguin. For specific information about the project or the aquatic herbicides, contact Debbie Magin at 830/379-5822.