

EXTRACT FROM QUESTIONS POSED TO STEPHANIE MILOT PRIOR TO HER VISIT TO THE LAKE ON AUGUST 12, 2020

Less milfoil?

- Many members have observed that there is less milfoil this year. Is this an accurate observation? And do we know why this is the case?

I have observed a decrease in some milfoil areas in other lakes, such as Dam lake. Scientific explanation (Lavoie, C., 2019): "*watermilfoil areas can decline without intervention.*

This happens occasionally over very short periods of time (2 to 10 years) and quite drastically. The phenomenon is apparently expanding. These declines, which are also seen in other invaders, amaze researchers.

They put forward several hypotheses:

- *biochemical interaction between several plants*
- *insects consuming the plant*
- *plant competition*

To date, no hypothesis is confirmed and it cannot be explained with certainty why there is a decline. "

it seem

- Can you locate milfoil in depths greater than 3 meters?

yes, it depends on the water transparency of the lake.

i will bring my aquascope: It helps with observations.

- What information do you have on the growth and spread of milfoil in the last two years?

According to my observations since 2017: McMullin, Saint-Pierre, McArthur, Grand, Vert, Dam, Brassard, McGregor, Baie Mud, Bonin (very small area) Letourneau and Twin. No observation : Perdrix, Ecluse

- Has it been found to die back and reappear in later years?

The scientific community doesn't have enough conclusive information to make a hypothesis about this. But it seems that like other species, watermilfoil has a certain cycle of life. Watermilfoil population density can change from year to year.

- Have any lakes managed to get rid of milfoil altogether?

the amount of research done on the control of watermilfoil is impressive. several methods can be used to control the plant. We very rarely succeed in eradicating it and interventions and prevention must be perpetual.

- This report

(https://crelaurentides.org/images/images_site/documents/guides/guide_myriophylle_AN.pdf) says it can grow at 10 metres depth. Is there any new information on this?

Can we expect deeper areas of our lake to become infested?

This submersed plant forms very dense patches and can take root at depths ranging

between 1 and 10 meters, reaching the lake surface at depths of less than 5 meters. Although this polyvalent plant can colonise a wide variety of habitats (lakes, rivers, wetlands, etc.) its maximum growth occurs in transparent lakes that have fine textured, nutrient-rich sediments.

Yes, these informations are accurate. watermilfoil can growth between 1-10 meters.

Scientific fact: Generally, watermilfoil will grow at depths between 1-4 meters and up to 10 m in lakes where the water is very clear. and most often in fine mineral sediments. (Lavoie, C., 2019).

General

- Who is taking over responsibility for monitoring our lakes?

Discussions still going on between the Municipality and the Federation. I can not give you an answer for now.

- Has there been any further information on the efficacy of burlap?

See next answer

- Are there any further developments of ways to defeat milfoil.

1. prevention, educational, boat washing stations, buoys, etc. : it helps limit the spreading.
2. manual pulling out roots with professional divers: Has been a proven technique. Another advantage is that this technique is selective and its effects on native vegetation are negligible. Disadvantages: complex and quite expensive method and has to be done over several years.
3. hacking cutting :can be useful for clearing navigation channel, but is ineffective in the long run. the milfoil will be back a year later and the work will severely fragment the stems and may even speed up propagation.
4. Physical screen: two kinds of material, but both have the same effect, namely to kill the milfoil, but also the native plants. the main difference is that the fiberglass cloths are removed in the fall (they can be used the following summer at another location) while the burlap is left in place until they decompose (approximately 3 years). disadvantage: if the physical screen work, it does not prevent the invader from returning once the cloth or burlap has been removed or decomposed, especially if the target area is not 100% covered. users of the burlap are also faced with the problem of ballast equipment.

4.1 Fiberblasse cloth (Aquascreen): \$\$
4.2 Burlap: \$
Source: (Lavoie, C. 2019).

- If education is the key, what are various government levels doing to educate the public, or are they relying on lake associations?

Provincial: There are some programs, such as Fondation de la Faune Programme pour la lutte contre les plantes exotiques envahissantes.

Federal: Environment and climate change Canada

Municipality of Val-des-Monts and Fédération des lacs de Val-des-Monts: Watershed master plan. page. 167 Objective E.2.1 ; E.2.2. https://www.val-des-monts.net/upload/userfiles/files/PDEBassin_VersionPreliminaire.pdf

- In private lakes such as ours, what is the primary method of milfoil reduction:
 - Keep out
 - No wake

- Burlap
- Picking up pieces
- Pulling out by roots.

It's a combination of those various methods who can help to reduce watermilfoil. You have to be prepared to invest for the long term. The fight against watermilfoil is costly in time, money and involvement.