
Second Aquatic Herbicide Treatment of 2018 Planned for Scituate's Dexter Pond

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, working in partnership with Providence Water and with funding and support from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management



Yellow floating-heart is a pond lily characterized by heart shaped leaves with wavy margins and a fringed, yellow flower that blooms in the summer

(RIDEM), announces a second 2018 aquatic herbicide treatment at Dexter Pond in North Scituate, RI. Dexter Pond is privately owned, but open to the public for recreational fishing and stocked with trout each April. It is one of three waterbodies in the state that host the invasive aquatic weed yellow floating-heart (*Nymphioides peltata*), which, if left unchecked, could render Dexter Pond unusable for fishing during the summer months and spread to the Scituate Reservoir, approximately one mile downstream.

“We are glad that our contracted pesticide applicators are completing a second treatment to ensure that the yellow floating-heart is eradicated from Dexter Pond during the third year of the grant. We look forward to seeing the continued progress of this treatment and are happy that it has proven effective in reducing concentrations of the plant so far,” said Molly Allard, NRICD’s Outreach and Education Coordinator.

Aquatic invasive plants can spread between waterbodies on boats, fishing gear, and wildlife, and it is unknown how Yellow Floating-Heart initially reached Dexter Pond. Fishermen and women can help prevent the spread of invasive weeds of all types by making sure no plant fragments are carried between waterbodies on their fishing gear, including rods, boats, and waders. Contractors from SOLitude Lake Management in Shrewsbury, MA have designed Dexter Pond’s treatment protocol to be safe for the watershed of a drinking water supply and to minimize impacts on recreational fishing. Any water usage restrictions following Dexter Pond’s treatment will be clearly posted in multiple locations at the pond by SOLitude staff. Restrictions on recreational use for fishing are expected to be in effect of the day of the treatment only. Restrictions against using the water for irrigation will last longer, but Dexter Pond’s water is not allowed to be used for this purpose.

The second aquatic herbicide treatment of 2018 is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2018.