

Dudley Pond Milfoil Report for 2006
for Wayland Conservation Commission
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By Ted Fiust

Dudley Pond was treated with the herbicide fluridone (tradename SONAR) in 2003. Handpulling efforts with limited funds were accomplished in the three subsequent years. Estimates are that perhaps 40 percent of the total population was pulled in 2004, 30 percent in 2005, and less than 20 percent in 2006.

Year	Number Milfoil Plants Pulled	Percent of Total Milfoil Population Pulled
2003	0	0
2004	12,000	40
2005	46,000	30
2006	140,000	20

Although the milfoil handpulling numbers were more than three times greater each year, the milfoil reproduced exponentially to perhaps 10 times greater numbers each year. This means that without some serious intervention efforts, next year there may be somewhere between a third and a half of the pond that will have milfoil at the surface, depending on conditions such as a mild or sunny winter and spring.

Milfoil is like crabgrass – once you have it you cannot get rid of it and it will grow just about anywhere. Milfoil grows in soft sediments and sandy areas, although it is generally less robust in the sandy areas. Once an infestation is entrenched, as it is in Dudley Pond, milfoil cannot be eradicated completely. This has been shown by a multitude of efforts in heavily infested bodies of water around the country.

At this date the milfoil appears in various densities in patches in much of the shallow sections of the pond. There remain some areas where milfoil is rather scarce. Multiple methods need to be explored to both keep the current infestation from turning Dudley Pond into an unusable water body, and to attempt to reduce the rate milfoil proliferates in the pond. 15,000 weevils that eat the milfoil were introduced this summer. Results may be available as early as next year. Other methods are being sought to analyze and reduce nutrient input over the long term, or cycle nutrients faster through the pond to reduce the rate of milfoil growth.



Some of the 140,000 plants that were removed this summer.