

Natural Resources Stewardship Committee (NRSC) In Action

Invasive Parrot Feather Management

Update September 27, 2024

The NRSC Lake Management Subcommittee (LMSC) is continuing to map the distribution of parrot feather (PF) in Lake Atagahi, using shore and boat observations, as well as aerial drone surveys with photos. The focus is currently on Little Atagahi, as it appears to have the greatest concentration of emergent and submergent clusters, likely because of its shallow depths.



The LMSC is in the process of testing and evaluating the effectiveness of an aquatic liquid contact herbicide (Aquathol-K), which was sprayed via a maintenance boat on September 10th. The test area, which runs along the southside of the causeway on Connestee, a short distance along the east bank of Little Atagahi is currently marked by small red flags.

LMSC members are regularly checking the test area and have observed a visible change in the quantity and quality of the overall distribution of the emergent green spikes and underwater masses. However, it appears that as the Aquathol-K begins to kill the parrot feather, the weed immediately attempts to send up small green spikes of new growth. (Photo credit Rick Clark)



Aquathol-K product information states that it may take 2 to 4 weeks to see significant weed reduction, and that subsequent applications may be needed in the mitigation process. Weather permitting, another application in early October and then reassess the results. On a positive note, LMSC has observed abundant forage and other small fish in the test area water.

Regarding lakes other than Atagahi, a small concentration of parrot feather has been observed on Lake Tiaroga. At present, Lake Ticoa appears to be essentially clear of the invasive and Lake Wanteska will be checked shortly. If you see a suspected parrot feather cluster, please take a photo (with location on) and forward it to cfpoanrsc2021@gmail.com.

The NRSC and LMSC realize the urgency to greatly reduce or eliminate this aquatic weed from our lakes, and it is important to move quickly. But we must also balance our responses with protection of our lake environment, which includes the fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic animals and plants.

Do not attempt to pull up, or boat through, parrot feather clusters, as this aquatic plant reproduces via fragmentation. Thank you for your understanding. Please contact the CFPOA Administration at cfpoa@connesteefalls.com with any questions or concerns.