



POA Ponds Committee *'Pond Views'*

September 1, 2020

Using Herbicides Around Your Pond

Weeds grow like crazy in our southeast North Carolina climate. Pulling weeds has become a part-time job. To avoid an aching back and arrest the aggressive Zoysia grass from intruding into mulch and pine straw beds, it can be easier to spray a herbicide. Roundup, a Monsanto product, is the most popular herbicide used to dispatch these unwanted weeds.

If you use Roundup or any other herbicide around your pond, you could be harming its fragile ecosystem. If you must use a herbicide near your pond, use an **aquatic** herbicide. There are several brands of aquatic herbicides available. Unlike other landscape herbicides and fertilizers, aquatic products are relatively unknown to the general public. Aquatic herbicides are highly regulated by the EPA and are safe for animals, fish, and other life within or near your pond. The last thing you want is to unintentionally harm wildlife by leaving a residual toxin in or around your pond. Aquatic herbicides do not leave residual toxins.

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One of several brands of aquatic herbicides available. This one available at HomeDepot.com ships free to a local Home Depot for pickup. (website photo)

There are aquatic herbicides designed for submerged weeds, partially submerged weeds, and out-of-water weeds in an aquatic environment. For the submerged and partially submerged weeds, a professional like our pond maintenance contractor, Dragonfly Pond Works, does that work. Out-of-water weeds within 15 to 20 feet of a pond should be controlled with an aquatic herbicide to avoid the possibility of harmful runoff entering the pond. There are several brands of aquatic herbicides available online, including Roundup Custom Aquatic Terrestrial Herbicide. Most, if not all aquatic herbicides are concentrates. Concentrates need to be mixed with an appropriate amount of water before application.

The key to using any herbicide is following the label directions exactly and wearing personal protective equipment as described on the label. It is always recommended to apply or spray when there is little or no wind. Note: applying any herbicide near plants you want to keep poses risk to those plants. This topic has come to the Ponds Committee's attention from resident questions and concerns seeing neighbors spraying herbicides near their pond. To protect our ponds, we recommend the aquatic herbicide alternative. For more information, check out "aquatic herbicides" online.

The Ponds Committee

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Have Some Questions or Concerns?

Do you have questions about ponds or need some additional information about the POA guidelines and ponds? Email the Ponds Committee for help at: StJamesPondViews@gmail.com

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