

FAQ - WEED BARRIERS

Offut Lake Community Steering Committee

Question:

Regarding the weed problem, one unscientific anecdote I'd like to share: in and around our dock there is no question that the weeds thrive in substrate that have fewer or no lake rocks. In areas where there is dense rock coverage there are virtually no weeds growing. The rocks may simply be preventing sunlight penetration which prevents weed growth. Could this be a lake-wide solution here (e.g. adding river/lake rock to problem areas).

Answer:

Yes, way back in the late 1980's Lake Lawrence experimented with a commercial weed barrier in the shallow (littoral) areas. It was expensive to install and did not last. The props tore it up. Other areas lifted off the soft spongy bottom of the lake. Silt filled in on top of other areas and weeds started growing on top of the barrier. They spent a lot of time/money pulling pieces out of the lake starting a few years after it was installed. They are still finding pieces coming loose and floating and are still dealing with getting it out of the water, particularly in the canal area.

As for rocks. yes, rocky areas have fewer weeds. However we don't see any benefit in adding river rock to the lake. And we are not sure WDFW/DNR would allow it anyway. Within a few years the silt/sand/muck will cover it up and you will once again have weeds growing.

Have questions? Email us at: Info.Offut.Lake@gmail.com
