

# Bothered by weeds? Smother them – don't cut them!



Example of a weed-free area using weed mats



Example of a weed-fouled shoreline

As you may have read in the summer issue of *Laker News*, the Conesus Lake Association's Board of Directors recently approved the following position regarding the intentional cutting or pulling of aquatic weeds:

***The CLA Board views the cutting of aquatic weeds as being a detrimental action that compromises the quality of Conesus Lake. Therefore, the CLA does not recommend the intentional cutting and/or pulling of aquatic weeds as a weed-control method.***

The reason for this is that all too often weeds are cut but then not collected, because it is virtually impossible to capture and collect all of the weeds pulled or cut because of fragmentation, winds, slow-rising weeds, water depth, etc. This often results in the floating weeds and shoreline accumulation of aquatic weeds we see through the late summer.

Additionally, research suggests:

- Weed fragments are an excellent way to disperse and generate new growth.
- Weeds that sink into the lake:
  - Create a decaying biomass that depletes oxygen.
  - Return nutrients to the lake which stimulates unwanted algae growth.
  - Have been linked with enabling conditions for bacterial problems.
- Weeds that wash up on shore, often on someone else's shoreline, create many of the same issues, as well as negatively impact property values and create added cleanup work for your neighbors.

The CLA does, however, endorse the use of weed mats as a Best Practice for aquatic weed control.

- Weed mats work well with little or no detriment to the lake.
- Weed mats and materials can be purchased at the local hardware as well as the marinas, are relatively inexpensive, and they will work for many years with little care.
- Weed mats can be easily moved enabling one mat to clear 3 to 5 areas each summer.

We strongly encourage you to consider the use of weed mats in lieu of weed cutting. To learn more about weed mats, please visit us at our booth at the Art & Crafts show on July 19-20. For more information on this topic, please go to [www.conesuslake.org](http://www.conesuslake.org). Thank you!

