

Pesticide General Permit Now in Effect

EPA published the Pesticide General Permit on October 31. Compliance with the permit is required as of that date. They are allowing pesticide applicators until January 12, 2012, to submit their Notices Of Intent to be covered by the PGP. In addition, the Agency says it will focus on providing assistance in complying with permit conditions rather than on enforcement during the first 120 days the permit is in effect.

The PGP for states and areas administered by EPA contains requirements for all applicators as well as requirements for individual use patterns. For example, all applicators must use only the amount of pesticide and frequency of pesticide application necessary to control the target pest, using equipment and application procedures appropriate for this task. Applicators must also maintain pesticide application equipment in proper operating condition, which includes calibrating, cleaning, and repairing equipment and preventing leaks, spills, or other unintended discharges.

Separate requirements are also established for operators or decision-makers. For example, the PGP requires that for each pest management area, each decision-maker must identify the problem prior to pesticide application, consider using a combination of chemicals and non-chemical pest management measures, and perform a survey before pesticide application to reduce environmental impacts.

Any decision-maker who is or will be required to submit an NOI, and is not a small entity, must also develop a pesticide discharge management plan (PDMP), except for any pesticide applications made in response to a declared pest emergency. The PGP defines a small entity as one that is below the Small Business Administration's size standard (see 13 CFR. 121.201), or is a public entity serving a population of 10,000 or less. A PDMP must include identification of the pesticide discharge management team, a description of the pest problem, and a description of the pest management options evaluation. Decision-makers must also provide procedures for spill response and adverse incident response.

The PGP also includes requirements for corrective actions, or follow-up actions an operator must take to assess and correct problems. Also specified are record keeping requirements for all entities covered by the PGP and additional requirements for for-hire applicators, small entities, and large entities. Decision-makers who are large entities must also provide EPA with annual reports that contain basic information on their pesticide discharges to waters of the United States. Small entities are also subject to the annual reporting requirement if they discharge to water containing a "listed resource of concern" as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The AERF is updating its webpage of links to the State NPDES programs as they become available. We have also included on the site the RISE state by state comparison of program requirements.



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US Army Corps Engineers Funding

The House and Senate has each passed their version of an Energy and Water appropriations bill, H.R. 2354. The Senate took H.R. 2354 and cut out language they didn't want and added their own language where they were in disagreement with the House or the Administration. You will recall that the entire \$4 million dollar budget for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) was zeroed out by the administration. The Senate version of HR 2354 is included in Senate Report 111-75. This version will be the springboard for what is being called the "second minibus" or combination spending bill. The second minibus will start with the \$ 4 million for APCRP added back into the bill.

We are encouraging everyone who can to keep the pressure on Congress. The Weed Science Society of America and AERF have been pushing the following points:

- It's the only federal aquatic invasive plant research program of its kind that supports 18 research scientists and staff in projects around the country;
- For every \$1 invested in publicly funded ecosystem research, \$20 in economic activity is estimated to be generated; and
- Eliminating the \$ 4 million research program is the worst possible thing Congress could do for our economic recovery because one not only loses the jobs and the existing infrastructure, but the hundreds of years of institutional knowledge accrued to research and the management of the ever increasing threat from invasive species taking over our lakes and rivers.

Lee Van Wychen, of the WSSA, provided the foregoing report and AERF has been working with WSSA to have the APCRP budget restored. Your continued support is appreciated.

Carlton Layne
Executive Director
AERF

The AERF website is a wealth of information for aquatic applicators, lake managers and waterfront property owners. Do you need information on the new Pesticide General Permit requirements? We keep in contact with the regulators from each state, and provide links to their draft or final permits as they become available. And don't forget our Best Management Practices Manual. Find information on management practices, techniques, and impacts. The EPA consulted and referenced this publication in preparing their Pesticide General Permit, and we provided a copy to the responsible regulator in each state for them to consult as they prepared their permit requirements. Other things you can find on our site include our economic analysis of the cost/benefits of aquatic plant management, links to our member applicators if you are looking for help to control a weed problem, and even a page with automatic unit conversions. Please check us out at www.aquatics.org, and remember that all these services are funded by your sponsorship.

Florida Invasive Plant Education and AERF: A Winning Combination

By Amy Richard, University of Florida/IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Twenty-four of Florida's top science educators will return to school this fall with their own summer camp stories: tales of tromping through the woods amid bugs, spiders and snakes and braving temperatures over 100 degrees on area lakes and ponds in search of invasive plant species. They may even share photos or videos from their field trips or tell students about the captivating instructors and extra special treatment they received during their five-day PLANT CAMP workshop, which is hosted by the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) each June. And that's just the way we like it.

While the event itself is made possible by the Invasive Plant Management Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission (FWC), additional sponsorship is needed for those extra touches that make PLANT CAMP even more memorable and keeps participants asking for more. As usual, the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) leads the way with their support for numerous meals and break refreshments, and custom t-shirts for all participants and presenters.



Thanks to AERF's generosity, and that of others including the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, United Phosphorus, Aquatic Ecosystems, Inc., and the Florida Lake Management Society, we are able to provide a quality experience for some of Florida's most dedicated teachers. This type of cooperation is a win-win situation. Supplying meals and refreshments on-site keeps our activities on schedule and enables us to fit in as much instruction and learning as possible during each 8-hour day. It's also a great way to demonstrate appreciation for a group of individuals who have given a week of their own time to learn as much as they can about invasive plant management. Their focus and desire to learn, even in extreme field conditions, continues to inspire.

But that's not the whole story. PLANT CAMP is just one component of the [Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative](#), launched six years ago as part of an ongoing partnership between the UF/IFAS CAIP and FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section.

The long-term goal of the initiative is to give young people a better understanding of the management challenges posed by from invasive species and also to empower future generations to become effective environmental stewards. The Initiative continues to be a work in progress and provides many opportunities for collaboration. Amy Richard, Education Initiative Coordinator, worked with dozens of Florida teachers to develop the curricula, producing several audio-visual presentations and a host of related lessons and activities—all of which correlate to Florida's Sunshine State Standards and are available online: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>. New teaching material is added each year including a game-show style activity that gives students a chance to role-play as various inhabitants of a freshwater ecosystem and/or make their own resource management decisions as citizens on a community advisory panel.

Many of these activities are featured during PLANT CAMP and workshop graduates are encouraged to use them in their classrooms. In return for their commitment to learn and teach the topic, they are given an enviable assortment of materials and resources including freshwater plant identification BINGO and jigsaw puzzle activities, artificial plant kits, plant recognition field guides, and magnifying lenses—to name a few. To date, more than 180 teachers have received this intensive training and, in turn, have shared their new knowledge with more than 1,200 of their colleagues and well over 20,000 students.

While we're on the subject of curricula development and outreach, we must also mention AERF's public service contributions: Carlton Layne, Executive Director, continues to make himself available for various theatrical appearances when needed. A few years back, he was kind enough to "loan" us



his *Nozzlehead* character to narrate portions of one of our main audio-visual presentations, *Why Manage Invasive Plants?* Carlton also takes time to visit one of our PLANT CAMP sessions every June for a humorous, but serious, discussion with teachers about Best Management Practices associated with herbicide control and the various pitfalls and legalities involved. His performances continue to rank as a favorite in PLANT CAMP evaluations every year.

With current budget and funding challenges, AERF's continued patronage is an important ingredient for the success of PLANT CAMP and our outreach efforts with teachers. It also goes a long way

toward helping us achieve our objective of providing educators with greater background knowledge of invasive plant management so they can confidently teach the subject to their students and colleagues.

For more information about the Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative, contact Amy Richard (arich@ufl.edu) or visit their website: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/>

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BIOLOGY AND CONTROL OF AQUATIC PLANTS



A Best Management Practices Handbook

Lyn A. Gettys, William T. Haller and Marc Belland, editors

Sponsorship

The AERF respectfully requests that you consider sponsorship. AERF will continue to work on your behalf, and as a member, you will greatly benefit from our work on regulatory and research aspects of aquatic plant management. With changes in the regulatory environment now and in the future, it is essential to be involved and to support all the hard work of your AERF associates.

Please contact Carlton Layne for information on how you can best participate.

The AERF Mission

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation supports research and development that provides strategies and techniques for the environmentally sound management, conservation, and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. Our research provides the basis for the effective control of nuisance and invasive aquatic and wetland plants and algae.

Strategic Goals

- Provide the public information concerning the benefits and value of conserving aquatic ecosystems including the aquatic use of herbicides and algaecides in the aquatic environment.
- Provide information and resources to assist regulatory agencies and other entities making decisions that impact aquatic plant management.
- Fund research in applied aquatic plant management at major universities.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan 17-19, 2012	NEAPMS, New Castle, NH
Feb 6-9, 2012	WSSA, Big Island, HI
Feb 26-29, 2012	MAPMS, Milwaukee, WI
Apr 2-4, 2012	WAPMS, San Diego, CA
Jul 22-25, 2012	APMS, Salt Lake City, UT

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