



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE



December 22, 2009

### CONTACT:

#### **Bill Graf**

Orlando Service Center  
South Florida Water Management District  
Office: (407) 858-6100, ext. 3837 or Cellular: (407) 908-4764

#### **Ed Harris**

Invasive Plant Management Section  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Office: (407) 275-4004

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

follow us on [twitter](#)

### **Hydrilla Treatment on Lake Kissimmee Rescheduled for January** *SFWMD and FWC to apply herbicide to 2,300 acres to control invasive plant*

**Kissimmee, FL** – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have rescheduled for early January a significant effort to control hydrilla growing in Lake Kissimmee. The invasive plant can clog waterways, impede navigation and affect wildlife.

Working in cooperation with the FWC Invasive Plant Management Section, the SFWMD Vegetation Management Division will apply the herbicide Aquathol, in pellet form, over 2,300 affected acres of Lake Kissimmee using a team of helicopters. Aquathol is approved for lake use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Originally planned for early December, the work is now scheduled to get under way on January 5, although wet weather or high humidity could delay it as much as a week. Additional hydrilla treatments on lakes Jackson and Cypress are slated for late January 2010 and March 2010, respectively.

Since hydrilla was first introduced from Asia as an ornamental aquarium plant in the 1950s, the rapidly growing aquatic plant has invaded almost 80 percent of Florida's freshwater ponds, rivers and waterways. The plant can grow in underwater stands or surface mats and is easily transferred to other water bodies by boats.

Hydrilla slows water flow and can clog structures in District canals that must be kept clear for effective flood control. It can also be detrimental to fish and wildlife habitat and limit access to waterways by clogging boat motors.

The SFWMD Vegetation Management Division is responsible for managing nuisance and invasive exotic vegetation throughout the 16-county District. The implementation of a vegetation management program is necessary to ensure the continued use and function of the region's water resources and preservation of South Florida's conservation lands.

For more information on the District's vegetation management efforts, please visit [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

# # #

**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*