

Lake Murray Invasive/Nuisance Vegetation Treatment *Temporary Irrigation and Drinking Water Restrictions for Lake Water*

To help control invasive plant species, the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) will conduct herbicide treatments in the impacted areas of the coves on either side of the end of **Old Lexington Highway** (see map on reverse side of document) from **July 27 to July 29**.

Why is herbicide treatment necessary?

Herbicide treatments are commonly used along with non-chemical methods — such as biological controls (like sterile grass carp) and lake drawdowns to manage problematic vegetation and improve navigation in lakes. The mechanical removal of invasive vegetation is rarely used because it's expensive and often causes additional problems, such as spreading the vegetation via fragmentation and removing invertebrates and small fish that support the local food chain.

Typically, the most effective method for the management of specific high-weed areas of a lake is the use of aquatic herbicides that are regulated by the U.S. EPA. These herbicides are applied in a targeted manner, following the label guidelines, and in the smallest amounts needed.

What should I know about these herbicides?

Licensed applicators will apply these two EPA- and state-approved herbicides to impacted areas: ***Galleon SC* and *Aquathol K***. These herbicides will be applied in-water to target pondweed.

Do not irrigate yards, gardens or ornamental plants using water from the treated area of Lake Murray from July 27 until we notify you that the herbicide concentration in the lake water has decreased to acceptable levels. This will take a ***minimum*** of 4 days.

- Aquathol K does not have any restrictions for irrigation. Galleon SC has an irrigation restriction post-treatment for food crops until the concentration in treated water falls below 1 part per billion.

Turn off any intakes used for drinking water from July 27 until we notify you that the herbicide concentration in the water has decreased to acceptable levels. This will take a ***minimum*** of 4 days.

- Galleon SC does not have any restrictions for drinking water use. Aquathol K has a drinking water setback distance of 600 feet and treated water can't be used for drinking until the concentration of endothall acid is less than 0.1 part per million.
- We have communicated with Columbia Water and confirmed that the Lake Murray Water Treatment Plant supply intake is outside of this setback distance.
- Withdrawal of lake water for drinking does not fall under the permitting systems of SCDES and is not advised. Dominion Energy permitting allows water withdrawal for irrigation use only.

There are **no swimming, fishing, or recreational water use restrictions** for these products at the rates they will be applied. It is advised to **not enter the area while treatment is in progress**. The water is safe to enter once application is completed but avoid ingesting lake water.

Galleon SC and Aquathol K are registered by the U.S. EPA and Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation for safe use in the aquatic environment. The approval process for these herbicides requires stringent testing over many years and strict regulation for proper use.

Anyone with questions should contact SCDES's Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program

Email: invasiveweeds@des.sc.gov | Phone: 803-898-0033 | Submit an online sighting report at des.sc.gov/anp

Post-treatment water testing results will be posted online at des.sc.gov/InvasiveSpeciesManagement



Scan the QR code to
receive email updates
about these water use
restrictions.

