

Pond Treatment Plan

In the Winter, Meadows Lawn & Trim cut down all phragmites in the front and middle ponds, and 90% of the phragmites in the large pond. (Those remaining phragmites will be cut down this Winter). Recently, the HOA Board approved a contract with Michigan Lake & Ponds to begin chemical treatment of the ponds starting in May.

Michigan Lake & Pond, Inc. is a family-owned and operated company in Fenton Michigan, with a simple Mission: "Create and customize a program that will maximize your water's functional, aesthetic, and recreational value." They are fully licensed and insured, and specialize in aquatic plant management. The staff has over 35 years of industry experience and has managed waterbodies ranging from backyard ponds to some of Michigan's largest inland lakes.

All ponds will receive monthly treatments for phragmites from May through October. Additionally, the front pond will be treated for algae from May through October. While the phragmites will remain under control with this treatment plan, it may take a few seasons to eradicate them.

The necessary Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EAGLE)* permits have been secured, and monthly announcements will be made to advise when the treatments are scheduled, so everyone will be aware when the vendor is on sight. Signs will also be posted after each treatment.

These actions are necessary to ensure we are in compliance with a Township Ordinance (*please see below*). The Board recognizes and understands that many co-owners are upset about the removal of the phragmites and the continued treatment to keep them under control. We do not, however, want to find ourselves in a position of the Township having control of the ponds and each co-owner being assessed by the Township for any cost incurred for any maintenance and/or preservation of the retention and detention basin areas.

Amended & Restated Development Agreement Section 2.11 Storm Water Management; Drainage District:

The Master Deed has assigned to the Association all responsibility to preserve, retain, maintain and keep operation the retention/detention basin area, inlet and outlet areas etc..... In the event the Association at any time fails to maintain or preserve the retention/detention basin area, the inlet and outlet areas, etc., in accordance with this Agreement, the Township may serve written notice upon the Association, setting forth the deficiencies in the Association's maintenance and/or preservation of the retention/detention basin area, inlet and outlet area etc., in accordance with this Agreement. Said written notice shall include a demand that deficiencies of maintenance and/or preservation be cured within thirty (30) days of the date of said notice. If the deficiencies set forth in the original notice, or any subsequent notice thereto, are not cured with such thirty (30) day period or any extension thereof, the Township in order to prevent the retention/detention basin areas, inlet and outlet areas, etc. from becoming a nuisance, may enter upon the retention/detention basin areas, inlet and outlet areas, etc., and perform the required maintenance and/or preservation to cure the deficiencies. ***The Townships cost to perform any such maintenance and/or preservation, together with a twenty-five percent (25 %) surcharge for administration costs, shall be assessed equally against each unit, placed on the next Township roll as a special assessment and collected in the same manner as general property taxes.***

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#1: Why are Pesticides Used: A well-maintained lake or pond may increase the value of your property. Aquatic pesticides can also improve the overall aquatic eco-system. A lake or pond that is choked with aquatic weeds can lead to stunted fish populations, stagnant waters, and low oxygen levels. Certain types of algae can be toxic to man, fish and other aquatic life. Pesticides are used to bring a balance back into the aquatic ecosystem. It is important to know that all plants are **not** weeds. Therefore, no aquatic management plan should attempt to eliminate all plants from the aquatic system. Michigan Lake & Ponds has recommended a program that both reduces nuisance aquatic plants (usually non-native plants) and maintains specific plant species (usually native plants) to provide cover and food for aquatic organisms that depend on plants and algae for their existence.

#2: Toxicology: In the case of aquatic herbicides both the toxicity and exposure are minimal. Most aquatic herbicides are mixed with water and evenly applied over the surface of the water. Michigan Lake & Ponds uses only EPA-approved products at, and mostly below, the label rates, which are safe for fish and other wildlife.

#3: Pesticide Classification: There are two broad classifications of pesticides as established by the EPA. The first classification is **general use pesticides**. These are considered lower in risk and are available for sale and use by the general public. (Examples would be herbicides for dandelion control, weed and feed fertilizers, copper sulfate, Aquathol-K and Aqua-Kleen). The second classification is **restricted use pesticides**. Michigan Lake & Ponds use **only** general use pesticides in their treatment programs.

#4: Environmental Fate; What happens after use of a pesticide in a lake or pond: Generally, pesticides break down rapidly in the environment, usually within a few days. Depending on the products used, a combination of sunlight, water chemistry, microbial action, and plant up-take break the pesticide down into natural components. Some pesticide ingredients eventually bind with sediments and are no longer available as an herbicide.

#5: How will the treatments be applied: Michigan Lake & Ponds uses specialized treatment boats that are equipped with high-pressure pumps that allow them to spread the product evenly throughout the treatment area, including subsurface injection to place the product directly on the target plants. If they cannot access the area by boat, they have specialized backpack sprayers that allow them to treat the areas from the shoreline.

*Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) provides permits for herbicide applications in public waters. Besides your commercial applicator, EGLE Inland Lakes and Remedial Action Unit can answer questions regarding which water bodies may require a permit and the permit process. They also regulate the type and amount of aquatic plant species that can be removed from a lake. (517 241-1300)