



Below the Surface

February 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Can concrete be improved to prevent weeds, algae and moss in canals?

Like many irrigation districts across the west, the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District is faced each year with prolific plant management challenges in their canals, laterals, drains, and wasteways. Aquatic weeds and algae rapidly grow in these waterways and reduce their carrying capacity, which decreases the ability to deliver water to farms. Invasive pests not only limit flow but also clog wateruser turnouts, pumps, siphon tubes, and sprinkler systems. Maintaining the functionality of this system is a major endeavor, in part due to the size of the district. The Columbia Basin Project is a network of approximately 2,300 miles of canals and laterals and 4,000 miles of drains and wasteways. [To continue reading the article, please click here.](#)

Florida pauses herbicide treatments for aquatic weeds as the public weighs in.

The Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission halted chemical control activities in the state's waterways as of January 28th. A public comment period and townhall meetings to discuss a way forward are currently advertised on the agency's website. Read more about these events follow the story here:

Workshops: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/habitat/invasive-plants/aquatic-plant/public-workshops/>

County to consider asking FWC to keep spraying:

https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/county-to-consider-asking-fwc-to-keep-spraying/article_e2745368-2e47-11e9-ba99-e73e7cfbccaf.html

State halts putting herbicide on nuisance water plants while it gathers public input: <https://www.news-press.com/story/tech/science/environment/2019/02/07/state-halts-putting-herbicide-nuisance-water-plants-while-gathers-public-input/2746290002/>

Restrictions on Roundup causes concerns for expanding weed programs.

John Madsen of the USDA and a fellow member of the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society was interviewed recently by Bloomberg News regarding the role of Roundup in aquatic weed management strategies. Read the full article here:

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/invasive-weed-creep-spurs-concern-over-roundup-bans>

HELPFUL HEADLINES

WOTUS - comment period open:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.natlawreview.com/article/comment-period-open-proposed-wotus-rule%3famp>

Additional info can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule/step-two-revise>.

Health Canada - statement on glyphosate:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/01/statement-from-health-canada-on-glyphosate.html>

Have news that needs sharing? Send Paul Pratt(paul.pratt@ars.usda.gov) an email with news updates!

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