

Press Release

July 22, 2010

City of Champlin

Elm Creek /Mill Pond Aquatic Weed Problem

The extended high water flows in the Elm Creek have continued to carry a large amount of aquatic weeds (Coontail) from the Elm Creek Watershed through the Mill Pond and ultimately to the Mississippi River. The heavy rains of July 17 have appeared to increase the amount of weeds carried to the river. Since that time, the watershed flow and the weeds have diminished. The DNR has identified the plant as Coontail, which is a natural occurring non-rooting plant that will migrate with the stream flow. The majority of these aquatic plants free-flow over the Mill Pond Dam directly into the river. Many of these plants have clung to docks and boat lifts on the Mississippi River. Some of the weed masses are quite large and residents should use caution when clearing the weeds from their docks. If you have questions or concerns about this issue, please contact Todd Tuominen, City of Champlin, and (763) 923-7120.

Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Common name: Hornwort.

Location: Clear-to-murky water up to 20 feet deep.

Description: Grows underwater with no roots; upper leaves may reach the surface; central hollow stem has stiff, dark-green leaves; plants may be long and sparse, but are often bushy near the tip, giving the plant a "coontail" or "Christmas tree" appearance.



Hints to identify: Often confused with watermilfoil, but coontail leaves are spiny and forked rather than feather-like.

Importance of plant: Many waterfowl species eat the shoots; it provides cover for young bluegills, perch, largemouth bass, and northern pike; supports insects that fish and ducklings eat. However, when growing densely, commonly causes nuisance conditions along shorelines.

Management strategy: See [DNR regulations](#). Coontail is important to young fish, so remove as little as possible. Use cutting or raking to reduce the amount of plants. Remove

all plant fragments from the water because they can regenerate into new plants. Herbicide control can be effective. H:\Aquatic Weeds Press Release.doc