

Iowa DNR News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 3, 2024

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Discounted trees available at distribution events this fall

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service, is offering large shade trees, low-growing ornamental and fruit trees, and evergreen tree species at discounted prices.

All Iowa residents can purchase up to two trees to be picked up at the following locations:

- Saturday, September 28, 8:30–10:30 a.m., Harrah's Casino north parking lot (1 Harrah's Blvd., Council Bluffs)
- Tuesday, October 1, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Fort Des Moines Park (7200 SE 5th St, Des Moines)
- Thursday, October 3, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Southern Iowa Fairgrounds (701 North I Street, Oskaloosa)
- Thursday, October 10, 4:00-6:00 p.m., River's Edge Discovery Center (20 N 1st Street, Fort Dodge)

- Tuesday, October 15, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Riverside Park (1301 Riverside Blvd, Sioux City)

Submit an order form, available online at www.iowadnr.gov/trees, to reserve your trees.

Trees provide a myriad of benefits to homeowners including reduced home heating and cooling costs, decreased stormwater, shade for outdoor activities, higher home values, and enhanced beauty.

Media Contact: Shaila Claibourn, Urban and Community Forestry Technician, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, shaila.claibourn@dnr.iowa.gov.

Late summer cattail and floating-leaved plant control for ponds

Have the cattails in your pond taken over your favorite fishing spot or crowded you from one side of the dock or swimming area?

Late summer or early fall is the best time to manage cattails, America Lotus, water lilies and other emergent or floating-leaved plants that are on the pond's edge or are above the water. Spraying certain herbicides this time of year will eliminate the whole plant, and it will not regrow next spring. There is little risk of depleting the oxygen in the pond with treating these plants; they die-back every year at this time and decompose slowly over the coming months.

Starting in late summer, these plants move food to their roots to survive the winter, making systemic herbicides most effective. The most common active ingredient to use is glyphosate (a few brand names with labels for aquatic use include Aqua Neat, Aqua Pro, Aquamaster, GlyphoMate 41, Rodeo, and RoundUp Custom). Find these at local hardware, farm supply or garden stores or try an online search for "aquatic glyphosate."

A surfactant or spreader-sticker must be added to many of these herbicides to allow it to stick to the plant's leaves. Read the label and check with your local or online retailer to select a surfactant that you can use in ponds. Spray the above-water part of the plant until just wet (not dripping) and follow instructions on the product label.

When you compare product brands, consider the amount of active ingredient, if a surfactant is needed, and size of the container. A product with a higher amount of active ingredient or one that does not need a surfactant added may provide a better value. The convenience of a ready-to-use (RTU) product that you do not have to mix or add a surfactant may outweigh price considerations.

Be careful to:

- Read and follow the product label for application instructions and precautions.
- Spray when calm, or when winds are low and out of a favorable direction to avoid accidentally spraying other plants valuable to landscaping. Increase the droplet size of the spray to reduce drift.
- Spray plants early in the day with full sunlight after the morning dew has dried to get the best results.
- Obey State law. Shoreline owners on public waters in Iowa may not use herbicides to control aquatic vegetation without a permit. Contact the Iowa DNR fisheries office near you for rules and instructions for removing aquatic plants from public waters.

Learn more about aquatic plants in ponds at www.iowadnr.gov/pondplants.

Media Contact: Jason Euchner, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-230-4789.

Public meeting to discuss aquatic plant management opportunities at Clear Lake

CLEAR LAKE - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is holding a public meeting on September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Clear Lake City Hall to discuss management options to reduce the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed.

DNR will present an overview of management actions to date, the tentative long-term plan for vegetation control, and answer questions. The meeting will also be live streamed through the City of Clear Lake's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@ClearLakelowa/streams>.

DNR's tentative long-term plan includes pursuing a whole lake treatment this fall/winter to attempt to eradicate Eurasian watermilfoil in Clear Lake and provide control over curly leaf pondweed for the 2025 recreation season.

Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive rooted aquatic plant native to parts of Europe and Asia, can spread quickly and outcompete beneficial native plants. It reproduces by fragmentation, which means small pieces of it grow into new plants and form thick beds. A small area containing the plant was originally found in the fall of 2023, east of McIntosh Beach, and was treated in May 2024. A larger area was found earlier this summer near Farmer's Beach. A more aggressive spot treatment of Farmer's Beach and other public access points around the lake was completed in August to help prevent the spread of this invasive plant to other nearby lakes as part of a short-term management plan.

DNR is asking boaters and other lake users to be extra vigilant and help prevent the spread of these invasive aquatic plants to other lakes in the area.

"It is required to clean all vegetation from boats and equipment before leaving boat ramps to prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil," said Kim Bogenschutz, the DNR's aquatic invasive species program coordinator.

"Iowa DNR has successfully eradicated this plant in many lakes throughout the state," explains Scott Grummer, fisheries biologist for the Clear Lake area. "The size of Clear Lake presents challenges for management."

Find more information about aquatic invasive species and a list of infested waters in the 2024 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet or on the DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov/ais

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