

Lake Lansing Newsletter

EUROPEAN FROGBIT - A NEW INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT!

This summer, an invasive free floating exotic aquatic plant called European frog-bit (see pictures below) was spotted in a small wetland pond in close proximity to Lake Lansing. The plant is native to Europe, Asia, and Africa and resembles miniature water lilies but the leaves are only 0.5 - 2.5 inches in diameter. The plant is free-floating and can travel between water bodies during high water periods or mistakenly transported by boats or trailers. The plant also creates over-wintering structures called turions that can be transported downstream. The Advisory Committee was made aware of this occurrence and a plan is being devised by the Mid-Michigan CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) to treat the plant next spring.



European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) structure and growth pattern.

LAKE LANSING WAKE ZONE MAP SIGN INSTALLED

As announced this spring, a Lake Lansing Wake Zone Map is available for community members to view while on the Lake. This map highlights recommended areas within the lake for safe wake-boat operation and shows water depths. Thanks to Ingham County Parks for installing the wake zone map sign at the boat launch to enable easy upload to visiting boaters.



The QR Code to the left will direct you the the Lake Lansing Wake Zone Map! Which can be used on any mobile device while on the water!

Fall

2026

Lake Lansing SAD Advisory Committee

Curt Armbruster, Chair
Tier 1

Susan Andrews
Tier 1

Ron Rowe
Tier 1

Roger Taylor
Tier 1

Steve Culling
Tier 2

Larry Wagenknecht
Tier 2

Younes Ishraidi
Charter Township of Meridian

Coe Emens
Lake Lansing County Park
Supervisor

Paul Pratt
Ingham County Drain
Commissioner's Office

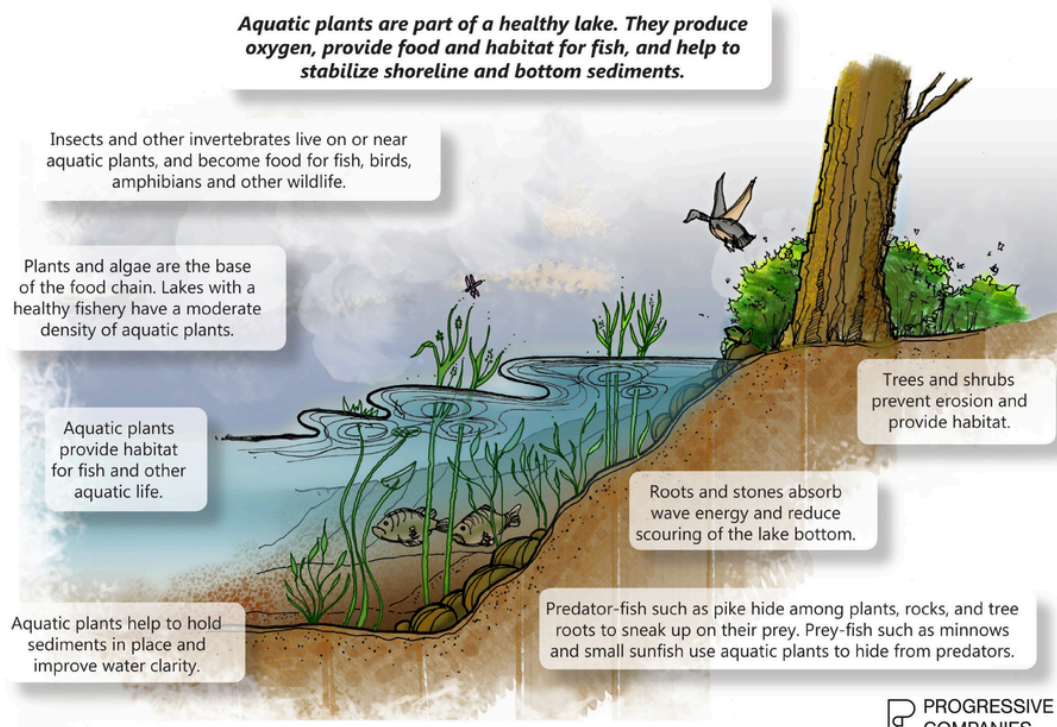
 PROGRESSIVE
COMPANIES

2026 AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

Scientists from Progressive Companies, the Lake Lansing SAD Advisory Committee's environmental consultant, conduct multiple georeferenced aquatic plant surveys of the lake each summer. An extensive aquatic herbicide treatment of Lake Lansing occurred on June 3 as determined by the initial aquatic plant survey. This treatment was highly effective at controlling both hybrid milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. The large-scale treatment allowed for season-long control of these invasive exotic species while allowing beneficial native plants to fill in the void left by the removal of these species. Mechanical harvesting around the shoreline will be conducted in September of 2026, primarily targeting starry stonewort and dense native plant growth. The goal of this activity is to remove the biomass from the ecosystem, reducing the accumulation of nutrient-rich sediment. A summary of the 2026 aquatic plant control program to date can be found below. Please note, future dates are subject to change and dependent on weather and growth conditions within the lake. The program focuses on the control of invasive exotic species while promoting beneficial native plants that provide crucial ecological services to Lake Lansing. A diagram at the bottom of this page depicts some of the ecological services that aquatic plants provide to a lake system.

LAKE LANSING 2026 AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Survey	Treatment	Harvest	Description
May 15	June 3	None	Treated 189 acres of hybrid milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed with a combination of systemic and contact herbicides.
June 15	None	None	No treatment necessary.
August 13	None	None	No treatment or harvesting necessary.
August 31	None	Week of September 21	Harvesting for starry stonewort and excessive native plant growth will be targeting biomass removal.



ROAD SALT: IMPACTS ON LAKES FACT SHEET

Created by Progressive Companies / Water Resources Group

Each year approximately two million tons of road salt are applied to Michigan's ice-covered roads by public agencies.¹ Individual use of salt on driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots would likely inflate this number considerably, if quantified. While the extent of the environmental effects associated with the use of road salt come into focus, Michigan's waterways appear to be facing a growing problem.

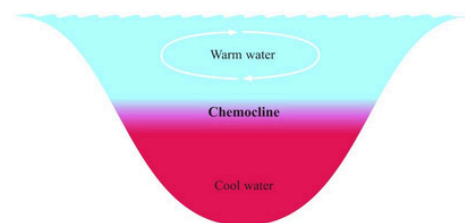
The most commonly used form of road deicer is Sodium chloride (NaCl), the same compound as table salt, but in larger granules called rock salt. Concerns over the use of rock salt have been met with somewhat safer but considerably more costly alternatives such as Magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) and Calcium chloride (CaCl₂). Chlorides can have detrimental ecological effects to freshwater systems at high concentrations. In August 2019, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) established water quality values (WQV) for chloride to describe the impacts to aquatic life at different concentrations. EGLE set the final chronic value (FCV) for chloride at 150 milligrams per liter (mg/L), stating that long-term exposure above this concentration can be harmful to aquatic life such as fish and invertebrates.²

The adverse impacts to lakes as a result of road salt inputs extend beyond immediate biological concerns. Because water density increases with salinity, chloride can accumulate in a lake's bottom waters and increase to levels significantly higher than surface water concentrations. Lakes that receive higher inputs of chloride may form a chemocline, or chemical gradient, between the surface and deeper water. This strong barrier to mixing can prevent a lake from fully turning over in the spring and fall. In deeper lakes, mixing is essential for re-oxygenating the bottom waters prior to the thermal stratification that takes place in the summer and winter. If a lake is unable to turn over, the deep water will remain oxygen-depleted. As a result, phosphorus, the nutrient that most often regulates aquatic plant and algae growth, will be released from the sediments year-round. Further, cold water fish such as trout and whitefish are unable to survive without sufficiently oxygenated deep water.

Chloride levels can be monitored by collecting samples throughout the water column. If a lake's watershed contains roads that are regularly salted during the winter it is recommended to monitor chloride levels.

References:

- 1 Cornwell, M. 2011. Michigan Road Salt: What is it costing Us? Michigan Science. 16.
- 2 EGLE. 2019. Chloride and Sulfate Water Quality Values Implementation Plan.



High chloride inputs can result in a chemocline, preventing lake mixing.

Limit Chloride Pollution

- If you have a water softener. Soften only where needed. Skip softening water for outdoor taps or cold drinking water.
- Watch where it drains. Avoid discharging softener backwash onto lawns or near the lake. If possible, redirect it to a dry well or connect to the sewer system.
- Consider using sand over rock salt for deicing and traction on sidewalks and driveways.
- Liquid deicing slurries are better than granular rock salt when road salting.
- ➤ Learn more: <https://dnr.mo.gov/water/how-water/pollutants-sources/chloride>

A reliable resource for
information on Michigan's
inland lakes.



michiganlakeinfo
michiganlakeinfo.com

