

Pelican River Watershed District 2006 Flowering Rush Herbicide Treatments

Extensive treatments of flowering rush infestations were undertaken from late June through early August. This year's treatment program grew out of three years of tests on Big and Little Detroit, Deadshot Bay (Curfman), Melissa and Sallie. The chemical herbicide imazapyr (which is made available by BASF under the trademark Habitat) was applied to all homogeneous stands of emergent flowering rush. These applications were authorized by the DNR.

Most of the 2006 treated sites were very small, rarely more than a few isolated spears, up to clumps that were four feet in diameter. These smaller sites were mostly found on Melissa and Sallie. The larger treatment sites were mainly found on Big, Little Detroit and Curfman.



2006 Habitat (Imazapyr) application locations.



Treatments were done by Mr. Denton Offutt using special equipment he designed specifically for this project.



Much of the Habitat was applied by a boom in 2006. For many small infestations and near docks, a high-pressure hand-sprayer was used (see picture to left)

Just under 37 gallons of Habitat concentrate were applied (together with a surfactant to promote adhesion of the herbicide to the plant), to about 99 acres on the five lake basins (93 acres on Big, Little Detroit, and Curfman). The total cost was \$72,500 of which 75% was for labor.

Handwicking tests were continued on two near-shore sites on Big Detroit Lake, in order to help ascertain the feasibility of small-scale applications.