

Best Management Practices for Aquatic Weed Control in Canals

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Weed control specialists must consider many factors when deciding on the management practices to utilize for control of aquatic weeds in irrigation canals. Management practices are generally limited to mechanical removal, hand removal and herbicide treatments. However the factors that need to be considered when adopting a management practice can be very diverse and unique for each canal system. These factors include the standard of control that is required, minimization of environmental impact, the customers that the canal services, the resources that are available, employee and public safety and cost. In addition, historical records of past practices are important for refining and revising management practices as conditions or weeds species change. As new herbicides are introduced into the market, the weed control specialist must determine if the herbicide has a place in their “tool box,” based on the many factors unique to the situation. This presentation will highlight the decision making process in development of best management practices for aquatic weed control in canals at Solano Irrigation District.