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just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

Aquatic Plant Management for Flood Control

The South Florida Water Management District is responsible for maintaining 1.3 million acres of state-owned land and water bodies in South Florida. One of the biggest challenges is controlling plants introduced on these lands and in the water that aggressively displace native vegetation essential to sustaining the ecosystem. The District invests more than \$20 million annually for exotic plant management operations and treats more than 60,000 acres per year.

- This summer, the District treated two and a half miles of the northern portion of the Faka Union canal in Collier County to eradicate harmful nuisance plants. Efforts to keep the canals throughout South Florida free of exotic plants are ongoing and are necessary to ensure that the canals are clear of potential obstructions that could contribute to a reduction in the canal's ability to remove flood waters away from developed areas.
- A small fish kill approximately of 40 fish was recently reported in the Faka Union canal. The fish kill was a result of the extremely hot weather recently in the Golden Gate area, which reduced the canal water's capacity to produce and hold oxygen.
- Fish kills are common in water bodies across South Florida during the summer. Most are caused by low dissolved oxygen prompted by stormwater runoff and hot, overcast days typical during wet seasons like the ones we are experiences. According to studies from the University of Florida, less oxygen is dissolved in water during hot weather.
- Vegetation treatments, which keep the canals free of obstructions, are part of the District's flood control mission.
 - These treatments are a standard maintenance practice and have been used successfully for more than four decades.
 - Herbicide applications follow all industry standards and are reviewed and permitted by the state in accordance with EPA regulations for aquatic herbicides.
 - No District weed control treatment has ever been associated with a fish kill.
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is charged with investigating and tracking fish kills.
 - Residents can report fish kills in natural water bodies to the FWC at <http://research.MyFWC.com/fishkill/submit.asp> or call the FWC Fish Kill Hotline at 800-636-0511.



sfwmd.gov

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 or 800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680