

Straight answers about Habitat Aqua herbicide SMART VEGETATION CONTROL FOR AQUATIC AREAS

Q: Why is BASF Canada registering Habitat[®] Aqua herbicide?

A: Tough-to-control invasive plants can be very problematic in the native ecosystem. Due to the spread of certain highly invasive weeds, a number of provinces and other stakeholders have sought access to tools like herbicides to control these invasive plants in and around certain aquatic sites. Registered options, however, are severely limited for this type of use in Canada.

Q: What is Habitat Aqua?

A: Habitat Aqua is a low-volume herbicide that provides effective, long-lasting, post-emergent control of undesirable, invasive and emergent aquatic vegetation using care to avoid over-application or run-off that might result in an inadvertent application directly to water.

Q: What does Habitat Aqua control?

A: Habitat Aqua controls Invasive Phragmites: European reed (*Phragmites australis*), Invasive Cordgrasses: Denseflower (*Spartina densiflora*), Salt-meadow (*Spartina patens*), Smooth (*Spartina alterniflora*) and Common (*Spartina anglica*), Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) and Invasive Knotweeds: Japanese (*Reynoutria japonica*), Bohemian (*Reynoutria bohemica*), Giant (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*) and Himalayan (*Koenigia polystacha*) growing within non-cropland areas, including areas in or around specified aquatic sites.

Q: Where can Habitat Aqua be used?

A: Habitat Aqua has a restricted label, meaning that the appropriate permits must be secured before use. This product is for use in and around standing and flowing water – including lakes, slow moving rivers, sloughs, streams, ponds, seeps, drainage ditches, canals, reservoirs, terrestrial, estuarine, marine and aquatic sites and seasonal wet areas. This product requires very low rates of active ingredient and is effective on most vegetation. Additional caution must be taken to keep the appropriate distance from the roots of desirable plants as application is made along the shoreline where roots may extend. Treated soil or water that may be washed or moved into contact with their roots could have detrimental effects to desirable plants. See the Habitat Aqua label for precautions, restrictions and instructions on aquatic uses.

Q: Who can apply Habitat Aqua?

A: Only applicators who are licensed or certified as aquatic pest control applicators holding the correct provincial permitting may apply Habitat Aqua. Use of this product in or immediately adjacent to water bodies must be appropriately authorized and used in accordance with the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations under the Fisheries Act. Use of this product must also be in accordance with any other required provincial regulations.

Q: Does Habitat Aqua affect the environment?

A: Habitat Aqua is a nonvolatile, water-soluble herbicide that will not bioaccumulate in aquatic organisms. Degradation primarily occurs as a result of photolysis, the decomposition of molecules by action of light, in water and microbial degradation in soil. Habitat Aqua degrades in soil under aerobic conditions, which leads ultimately to mineralization. Habitat Aqua dissipates rapidly in aquatic systems. The majority of Habitat Aqua applied to water surfaces will remain in the water with very little entering into the sediment. Habitat Aqua rapidly photo degrades in water, with half-lives of 0.54 to 5.3 days. In pond dissipation studies, Habitat Aqua rapidly dissipated from the water, with half-lives of 0.9 days to 13.8 days. The differences in the rates of dissipation in pond studies are likely the result of murky waters, where photolysis is reduced.

Q: Does Habitat Aqua herbicide affect humans and animals?

A: Habitat Aqua has undergone extensive testing and results indicate that Habitat Aqua is not a mutagen, carcinogen, teratogen or endocrine disruptor. Furthermore, when used as labeled, Habitat Aqua should not have a direct adverse effect on mammals, birds, fish, crustaceans, mollusks or insects. This is true in part, due to Habitat Aqua's mode of action, that directly inhibits AHAS, a plant specific enzyme.

Q: Why is Habitat Aqua considered a low-volume herbicide?

A: Habitat Aqua contains the active ingredient imazapyr, which is part of the imidazolinone chemical family manufactured by BASF Corporation. These products are effective at very low rates of active ingredient, which puts less chemical load on the environment.

Q: How does Habitat Aqua work?

A: Habitat Aqua inhibits a plant-specific enzyme, causing the plant to stop growing and slowly die as its food and energy reserves are exhausted. This enzyme is not found in animals or humans.

Q: How fast does Habitat Aqua work?

A: Within 10 hours of application, Habitat Aqua slows and stops growth of susceptible species. Generally, one to two weeks after application, plant yellowing (chlorosis) can be seen. Between two and four weeks, death of growing points occurs. Complete control of targeted vegetation may take a month or more.

Q: How is Habitat Aqua applied?

A: Habitat Aqua is versatile enough to work well with a variety of application methods and equipment – including low-volume foliar backpack and hydraulic applications, boom equipment, helicopter-applied aerial applications and hand-wicking with a tool.

Q: Can livestock consume water treated with Habitat Aqua?

A: There are no restrictions on livestock consumption of water from an area treated with Habitat Aqua.

Q: Are there any irrigation restrictions with the use of Habitat Aqua?

A: Water or ditches treated with Habitat Aqua may not be used for irrigation purposes. Please consult the Habitat Aqua label for other irrigation restrictions that may apply.

Q: What are the recreational use restrictions following application of Habitat Aqua?

A: There are no restrictions on the recreational use of water in the Habitat Aqua treatment area – including swimming and fishing. The active ingredient in Habitat Aqua does not contain heavy metals, organochlorides or phosphates.

For more information
Visit www.BetterVM.ca.

Always read and follow label directions.