

Water Lily Control

Aquatic Weed: **White/Yellow Water-lily**

Scientific Name: ***Nymphaea alba/Nuphar lutea***

Information: The lily is distinguishable by their floating leaves and white or yellow flowers. The species can be distinguished before flowering as *Nuphar* has oval shaped leaves and *Nymphaea* has a round leaf that overlaps slightly behind the stalk. Lilies can grow in up to 5m of water, but prefer around 1m to 3m. They have extensive rhizome systems, if not contained or with no control they will provide a dense covering over the water surface, which can suppress the growth of other aquatic plants. The White Water-lily is becoming rarer and therefore has conservation value.

Methods of Lily Control

- **Removal via Excavation of Lily Rhizome**— this is our preferred method of control as it digs out the rhizome of the plant. By removing the roots we are minimising the chance of any regrowth and any regrowth there is becomes a lot easier to control.
- **Cutting using the Truxor T cutter bar attachment**— This involves cutting the lily stems at a maximum depth of 1.7m (5ft6in) and allowing the stems to float to the surface before removing. It is a temporary measure but allows a cheaper and quicker method of control.
- **Chemical Spraying (using qualified operatives and approval from the EA)** - This is carried out from a boat using approved chemicals to treat the emerged lily pads. The chemical will act upon the leaf and stem, this operation may require repeat treatment and mechanical cutting to remove the rotting vegetation.

Below is our operator Chris with a heap of Lily rhizomes removed from a small lake.



Aquatic Solutions UK use specialist machines manufactured in Sweden, known as Truxors. They are amphibious, extremely versatile and lightweight. Being lightweight, this enables them to drive across lawns and other sensitive areas where other heavy machines cannot. Many weed cutting boats have to be taken by trailer to the water's edge before they are unloaded or craned into the water. Being amphibious this does not apply to our machines.

Once in the water the excavator arm can dig out roots up to 3m deep. Alternatively they can be cut with our reciprocating T cutter to depths of 1.7m (5ft6in). The rhizomes or cut material then float to the surface, where we attach a clearing rake to remove it from the water and take it out onto the bank away from the water's edge. This is essential to prevent de-oxygenation of the water from the rotting weeds.

To get in touch please contact us;

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Water Lily Control

[Aquatic Solutions Water Lily Pictures](#)



Private Client, Surrey with the lake covered in lilies



The lake after Truxor mechanical cutting and removal



Truxor Excavator digging out the lilies along with the rhizomes



Collecting the floating lily rhizomes after excavation



Lily tops and rhizomes removed from the lake