

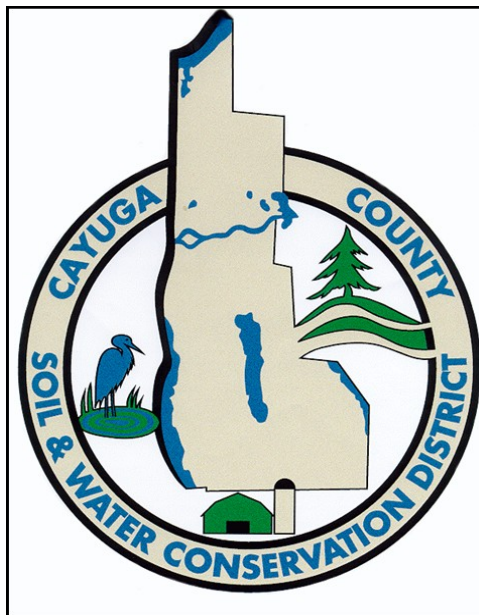
## 2011 Cayuga County AVC Combined Harvest Totals

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
1,892	246,000	5,191	442	2,780

An early warm summer, and prolonged periods of little precipitation lead to ideal conditions for vegetation growth in 2010. Both early and late season species benefited from the weather conditions which led to the need for two harvests in both Little Sodus Bay, and Owasco Lake. Increased levels of water clarity as a result of Zebra Mussels, and less frequent precipitation have allowed natives, and non-natives alike to proliferate. Decreased harvests in Little Sodus Bay, Cayuga Lake, Otter Lake and Lake Como were below average, no clear cause for the decrease was noted.

### AVC Five Year Harvest Totals (Cubic Yards)

Volume (Yd <sup>3</sup> )	Owasco Lake	Cayuga Lake	Fair-Haven Bay	Lake Como
2011	646	708	492	46
2010	660	280	260	25
2009	530	480	410	120
2008	540	795	360	120
2007	750	480	470	140



7413 County House Rd.  
Auburn, NY 13021  
Phone: (315) 252-4171  
[www.co.cayuga.ny.us/soilcon/](http://www.co.cayuga.ny.us/soilcon/)



## Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control



## Program Objectives

Cayuga County is home to a very diverse collection of water bodies. Lake Ontario defines the northern boundary of the County. Cayuga County also includes parts or all of three of the largest Finger Lakes, Cayuga, Owasco, and Skaneateles. In addition there are several smaller water bodies including Lake Como, and Otter Lake. These water bodies are used year round by local residents and visitors alike. One of the primary uses of these water bodies is recreation. The most common complaint of individuals utilizing Cayuga County's water bodies is nuisance aquatic vegetation. Aquatic vegetation is an unavoidable reality in the aquatic ecosystems. Nutrient inputs, solar radiation, and a ready supply of water ensure that these lakes are highly productive. From hindering navigation and swimming, to creating water and air quality issues during mass die off events, aquatic vegetation can dramatically interfere with people's use of the lake. The Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program's objectives are to increase the accessibility and usability of the county's water bodies, while seeking to leave the lakes in the most ecologically intact manner possible. Vegetation is of the utmost importance for maintaining water quality and providing shelter for a large cross section of the aquatic life found in the water bodies. A careful balance must be struck to meet the demands of the human uses of the lakes as well as the needs of other organisms who rely on the lake ecosystem for survival. The AVC program seeks to provide relief to areas of the County's water bodies where usability is impaired.

### Cayuga County Water bodies

#### Cayuga Lake

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
708	92,000	1,941	166	1,040

The warm, dry summer lead to strong vegetative growth throughout Cayuga Lake. Plant densities were more evenly distributed across the harvesting area, rather than in patches as is more typical. Eel grass, chara, and floating vegetation (probably due to high boat traffic on Cayuga Lake's north end) comprised the majority of loads harvested. Floating debris did not accumulate in coves between The Village of Cayuga and Union Springs as densely as in years past.

#### Owasco Lake

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
646	84,000	1,772	151	949

The lack of rain on a regular basis, combined with a hot summer led to prolific growth of vegetation around the lake. Native species such as eel grass and chara created a need for harvesting in areas that are typically minimally impacted by growth. Water stargrass, an invasive plant, continues dense growth especially along the south east portion of the lake. Harvesting had to be carried out at the end of almost every dock on the lake. This process is time consuming but necessary to provide relief from problematic vegetation.



#### Lake Como

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
25	3,250	68	6	37

Growth was very light throughout the lake. The southern end of the lake, which has been inundated the past several years with Musk-grass (*Chara Spp.*), was comparatively clear of plant growth.

#### Little Sodus (Fair Haven) Bay

Three main areas of Little Sodus continue to be highly effected by vegetative growth, the two southern basins of the bay as well as

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
260	33,800	710	60	382

Meadow Cove along the western side of the bay. Shallow waters, and silt bottom provide excellent growing conditions for plants in these areas.

