

2012 Cayuga County AVC Combined Harvest Totals

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
2,905	377,650	7,959	675	4,241

An early warm summer, and prolonged periods of little precipitation lead to ideal conditions for vegetation growth in 2012. 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 Cayuga Lake. Increased levels of sun combined with less frequent precipitation, have allowed natives, and non-natives alike to proliferate. Harvest totals in Little Sodus Bay, Cayuga Lake, Otter Lake and Lake Como were well above average.

AVC Five Year Harvest Totals (Cubic Yards)

Volume (Yd ³)	Owasco Lake	Cayuga Lake	Fair-Haven Bay	Lake Como
2012	535	887	1,224	137
2011	646	708	492	46
2010	660	280	260	25
2009	530	480	410	120
2008	540	795	360	120



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2012

Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program



Program Objectives

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 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.

2012 Cayuga County Individual Water Body Harvest Results

Cayuga Lake

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
887	115,310	2,430	206	1,295

The warm, dry summer lead to strong vegetative growth throughout Cayuga Lake. Lower lake levels were also a hindrance to the harvesting operations. Several areas had to be abandoned because the harvester could not safely enter the shallow waters.

As a result of the excessive weed growth, we deemed it necessary to complete two harvestings on the Lake. The second was completed 2 weeks after our normal end of season date.

Otter Lake

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
122	15,860	334	28	178

Otter Lake is where the AVC Program kicked off it's 2012 harvesting campaign. We encountered moderate growth in areas of the Lake due to our late arrival for cutting.



Owasco Lake

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
535	69,550	1,465	124	781

The lack of rain on a regular basis, combined with a hot summer led to prolific growth of vegetation around the Lake. Lower Lake levels were also a hindrance to the harvesting operations. Several areas had to be abandoned because the harvester could not safely enter the shallow waters.

The combination of shallow, inaccessible areas our ability to complete only one harvesting, led to a reduced total from the previous years.

Lake Como

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
137	17,810	375	31	200

Growth was much stronger this season compared to recent years. This was reflected in our highest harvest totals since 2007.

Fair Haven (Little Sodus) Bay

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
1,224	159,120	3,353	284	1,787

Three main areas of Fair Haven Bay (FHB) continue to be highly affected by vegetative growth. They include two southern basins of the bay as well as Meadow Cove along the western side of the bay. Shallow waters, and silt bottoms provide excellent growing conditions for plants in these areas. Due to the growing conditions, FHB was the first large County water body that was harvested. The 2012 numbers reflect the totals of 2 separate cuttings on FHB.