

2013 Cayuga County AVC Combined Harvest Totals

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
2,232	290,160	6113	517	3,259

A summer complete with heavy localized rain events led to an initial, slow start to the season. However, once temperatures moderated, the vegetation growth expanded quickly. Vegetation Harvested from Owasco Lake accounted for approximately 1/2 of the Program totals. Harvesting was required in areas where it had not been necessary before. As a result, harvesting was delayed in each of the other waterbodies. Cayuga L., Fair Haven Bay, L. Como and Otter Lake each seemed to experience average to below average growth.

AVC Five Year Harvest Totals (Cubic Yards)

Volume (Yd ³)	Owasco Lake	Cayuga Lake	Fair-Haven Bay	Lake Como
2013	1,162	428	413	76
2012	535	887	1,224	137
2011	646	708	492	46
2010	660	280	260	25
2009	530	480	410	120



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2013

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.

2013 Cayuga County Individual Water Body Harvest Results

Cayuga Lake

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
428	55,640	1,172	99	624

Cayuga Lake experienced a slow start to the season. However, all at once, vegetation growth accelerated. It was noted that the volume that was removed was close to average for the Lake.

Due to the presence of Hydrilla at the Cayuga Inlet, each load that was harvested was checked by our operators for signs of the highly invasive weed. Thankfully, none was found.

Otter Lake

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
153	19,890	419	35	223

Otter Lake was harvested later in the rotation as compared to previous years. It seemed that the weed growth was very late to begin. Volume was average for the location.



Owasco Lake

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
1,162	151,060	3,183	270	1,696

The AVC Program began operations by harvesting on Owasco Lake. Despite the SWCD getting on the Lake early, wet conditions seemed to cause an explosion of aquatic vegetation growth. Differing growth cycles of aquatic weeds caused minor delays as a second growth seemed to proliferate 2 weeks after our harvesting equipment moved through.

As a result of the excessive weed growth, and as an experiment to measure a late cuttings' impact on the weeds, we deemed it necessary to complete a second harvesting on the Lake.

Lake Como

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
76	9,880	208	17	110

Growth was average for this season as compared to recent years. Higher water levels resulting from beaver activity may have caused an impact on growth.

Fair Haven (Little Sodus) Bay

Volume (yd ³)	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
413	53,690	1,131	96	602

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.

We experienced a closer to average amount of weeds from the Bay.