



Narrow-Leaf Cattail Treatment Info

While Narrow-leaf (*Typha angustifolia*) cattails may not be considered as much of a problem as other invasive plants, they still are not native to the area and can play a major role in declining the amount of native species which are present in a wetland. Management of Narrow-leaf cattail can be done in numerous ways, but the most important variable that comes in to play is the ability to manipulate water levels at certain times of the year.

Mechanical Control

A number of mechanical methods can be utilized to help remove narrow-leaf cattail from a property. If an area can be drained to the point where equipment is able to be driven around, or if ice levels are thick enough, machinery such as mowers, discs, and brush hogs can be used to cut down dead residue or disrupt soil and stress rhizomes. These actions should be taken in late spring when the starch reserves in the roots are at their lowest. It is essential that after mechanical control has taken place water levels be raised to the point where it covers up new shoots. High water also encourages muskrat recruitment. Muskrats naturally feed on cattails and may rid an area of Narrow-leaf cattail, however they do not distinguish between the native Broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and invasive Narrow-leaf cattail, and in turn may reduce the population or area of the desired native species.

Chemical Control

Use of a glyphosate product which is approved for use in or around wetland areas is adequate to kill living stands of Narrow-leaf cattail. Application should take place in mid to late summer when growth is at or nearing its peak. A 2% solution is effective in eradication of living plants. During winter or spring following application, mechanical action or burning should be enacted followed by raising water levels.

***Refer to Herbicide Technical Sheet for precautions and guidelines when handling chemicals**

Prescribed Fire

If an area is too wet for machinery to enter, prescribed fire may be another form of control. This will take place again in winter or spring when dead foliage is able to carry fire. Once burned, raise water levels as described above to smother new growth.

***Refer to Prescribed Fire Technical Sheet for Ohio burning laws and regulations**



	Method	Timing
Mechanical/Prescribed Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mowing, discing, brush-hogging• Prescribed Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Late Spring• Winter or Spring
Chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foliar Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-late Summer

*All actions should be followed by raising water levels as described above

Resources

"Narrow-leaf Cattail." <http://sewisc.org>. Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc., n.d. Web. 2 Feb. 2016. <http://sewisc.org/invasives/invasive-plants/82-narrow-leaved-cattail>

DOW AgroSciences Online Weed Guide - <http://www.dowagro.com/en-us/vm/weeds-brush/grasses/c/cattails>

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