

Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Didymo "Rock Snot" (*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Didymo is an extremely invasive algae that can tolerate a wide range of habitat conditions and it only takes the introduction of one cell for it to establish into a new colony. This diatom algae forms thick mats in cool, moderately flowing lake and river bottoms and has a negative effect on the entire aquatic ecosystem. These thick mats alter the water quality, take over habitat for native fish and macro invertebrates, and cause slippery surfaces on the bottom that can make recreational activities dangerous. As the colony thrives, the algae filaments get longer and can become unattached and move downstream spreading this aquatic invasive species to new areas.

Native to Lake Superior and Central Canada, it has spread to western rivers, as well as eastward from the mid-Atlantic to Quebec around 1990. New Zealand is known for having many established didymo infested areas.

Identification



Photo credit: <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/about-invasives/prevention-watch-list-species-in-slelo-region/rock-snot-didymo/>

- Colour varies from brown, tan, to yellow
- Forms clumps and strings with a rough cotton feeling
- Found attached to rocks and or plants
- Has the appearance of "snot"

saskatchewan.ca/tip

TIP LINE: 1-800-667-7561

SaskTel Cell: #5555

How would Didymo get here?

Didymo is primarily transported between water bodies by human activity, as it attaches to boats, trailers and equipment. It can also spread as filaments may be broken and carried downstream. Once this invasive alga is introduced, it can take over ecosystems very quickly.

What can I do to prevent the spread of Didymo?

Clean, drain and dry your boat and equipment thoroughly before launching into a new area. Remove and dispose all vegetation, animals and mud into enclosed garbage cans.

Never use invasive species as bait or in your aquarium; always check with the sellers to be sure. Make others aware of this invasive alga and report any findings to the Saskatchewan TIP line .

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



Current Saskatchewan Regulation

The Fisheries Regulations prohibit Saskatchewan residents and visitors from importing, possessing, transporting or selling aquatic invasive species.

Report Sightings

Report any sightings to the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP line.

Need more information or have questions?

Call 1-800-567-4224 (in North America) or email centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.

For a complete
list of prohibited
species, [click here](#)

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