

Infrared photos depict plant clogs in lakes

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Tex. — Water villains such as hyacinth and hydrilla are clogging two lakes north of Houston, says a Texas A&M researcher who has been monitoring the lakes from the air with color infrared film.

Bob Benton of the Remote Sensing Center at A&M notes that efforts to control aquatic plants in Texas waterways "are not keeping up with the rate of spread."

He described water hyacinth and hydrilla, coontail, watermilfoil, pondweed and duckweed as the "villains of the water community."

"Their accelerated growth in Texas lakes and reservoirs in recent years," he said in a report distributed by A&M's Water Resources Institute "is reminiscent of the onset of the problem in Florida."

"There, noxious plants have

ruined water frontage for homeowners, limited water recreation and boating; clogged navigable streams; and blocked intake structures of water supply plants and power generating stations."

Florida's attempts to control the runaway weeds cost \$15 million a year.

The plant population of Lake Livingston grew from 50 acres of water hyacinth in 1971 to 2,000 acres of hyacinth and other plants by 1974, Benton said. The spread of water plants at Lake Conroe, he added, is "even greater."

At Livingston, the Parks and Wildlife Department is applying the chemical 2,4-D from spray boats to control hyacinth, but Benton reports, "unless you can totally eradicate the plants the use of 2,4-D actually encourages late-season regrowth

in areas where the plants might have withered early if left alone."

"One month," Benton said, "the stuff would be killed off and we would say 'hurrah for our side,' but the month after that it would come booming back in the cleared area. It has a property within itself which will produce a springlike regeneration after it has been stressed."

In his "test" project at Livingston with the infrared film, Benton can differentiate between vegetation species, as well as determine the stage of growth or decay of the plants.

The 1975 work was done under contract with the Trinity River Authority, and Benton said he hoped by the end of this year the authority can take over the photography and analysis.

"Ideally," he says, "every major lake in Texas should be monitored."

Livestock attacked

County contracts trapper

Associated Press
McKINNEY, Tex. — Collin County ranchers have asked the commissioner's court to hire a trapper to rid the area of canine predators that have been attacking chickens, calves, sheep, goats and hogs.

The Northeast Texas ranchers say the night predators include wolves, coyotes and a vicious animal called the coydog.

Some farmers and ranchers say the coydogs, a crossbreed between a coyote and a wild dog, are doing most of the damage.

Elzie Moon, a rancher near the community of Anna, said Monday an estimated \$30,000 in poultry and livestock have been lost within a five mile radius of his property during the past few years.

Moon said, "Wild dogs will run with a pack of coyotes and what you end up with is a king sized coyote — a vicious animal that is not as scared of humans as is a coyote. The cross breed will kill just for the pleasure of killing."

Selby Kemp, another rancher, said, "It's even impossible now to raise chickens. I have lost 35 chickens, three hogs and two peacocks recently."

Tom Robinson said he gave up sheep raising 18 months ago after losing 60 per cent of his ewes to predators.

Officials of the rodent and predatory control section of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Department said the agency would pay half of the \$325 a month needed to hire a trapper.

During a recent public hearing on the matter, environmentalists protested the use of county tax money to pay a trapper. They said such a move could destroy the ecological balance between rodents and coyotes.

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STUDENT QUOTES for the AGGIELAND '76

In order for a more relevant opening to the yearbook, the AGGIELAND '76 is going to utilize quotes by students. Below are listed several subjects; we would appreciate your opinion, outlook or statement concerning these topics. If possible we would like your name, but is not required.

A&M Centennial:
Bicentennial:
Male/Female Situation (which ever you aren't):
The weather:
Professors or classes:
President Williams:
Food (on or off campus):
Campus conditions (crowds, parking, construction, the wall):
Your favorite spot on campus:
On activities (student life):
Spirit:
Board of Regents:
Tradition:
People:
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name

Please cut this opinionaire out and drop off at either our table in the MSC or at the Office of Student Publications, Reed McDonald Bldg. Rm. 216.
Please Return by January 30.

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Under the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," the following directory information may be made public unless the student desires to withhold all or any portion of it:
Student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.
Any student wishing to withhold any or all of this information should fill out, in person, the appropriate form, available to graduate students at the Graduate College and to undergraduate students at the Registrar's Office, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 3, 1976.
Edwin H. Cooper, Dean Admissions and Records Texas A&M University

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