



# Managing Stormwater Ponds

## *What you need to know about shading agents*

The use of shading products is a common practice for the control of algae and other aquatic vegetation in ponds. However, it is important to know that the release of these products to “waters of the state” is considered an illicit discharge and in violation of Ohio’s Water Quality Standards as defined in Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-04, which requires these waters to be ***“free from materials entering the waters as a result of human activity producing color, odor or other conditions in such a degree as to create a nuisance.”***

These types of products (including herbicides and algaecides) are best suited (and generally labeled for use) in recreational ponds and not stormwater ponds, which generally discharge waters during every rain event. Using risers on outlets can help minimize the chances of a discharge, but also increases the chances of water backing up into homes or streets or leading to unsafe conditions if the outlet becomes blocked during high-flow events.

The best suggestion? If you have been using shading products in your stormwater pond, now is a good time to reassess your ponds current condition and management approach. Excessive algae growth occurs in ponds with high nutrient-loading and sediment build-up, and is a great indicator that more aggressive maintenance may be required.

Consider alternative practices, which may include bottom bubbler aeration systems, using aquatic plants (like lilies or lotus) to provide natural shade, or dredging to remove nutrients and restore depth.

Stormwater ponds provide many maintenance challenges. If you need more guidance check out our website at <https://www.franklinswcd.org/ponds> or contact us directly at 614-486-9613.



The picture above shows a recently dosed stormwater pond with colored dye. During the next storm event this material can be easily washed into streams and other waterways where it could impact natural aquatic systems.



The picture above is a real-world, local example of a confirmed illicit discharge from an upstream stormwater pond using shading agents in an attempt to control algae growth.



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