

How is Didymo Spread?

Anything that comes in contact with water can spread Didymo, including fishing gear, boats, live wells, bait buckets, and most frequently, felt-soled waders. Once Didymo invades a waterway, it is impossible to eliminate. **Please clean all gear that comes in contact with the water. If you cannot clean your gear, dry thoroughly before re-use or restrict gear to a single water body.**



This brochure was prepared by the Department of Conservation and Recreation Lakes and Ponds Program and the Massachusetts Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (AIS WG). The AIS WG is a collaboration of state environmental agencies, federal agencies and non-profit organizations. This brochure is also made possible by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/czm/invasives/partners.htm>

Prevent the Spread of Didymo

CHECK

Always check your boat and equipment before leaving a water body. Remove any visible plants, clumps of algae or aquatic animals from all gear and empty all bait bucket water, live well water, and cooling water on dry land away from shore.

CLEAN

If you have been in a river or stream, clean:

Non-absorbent Items

Soak item in hot 113°F (uncomfortable to the touch) water for at least 20 minutes. Water must remain at or above 113°F for the entire soaking to be effective.

OR

For one full minute soak or spray a film of either

- 5% solution of dish soap and water (1 cup detergent per gallon of water) or
- 2% solution of bleach (1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water)

Absorbent Items (especially felt-soled waders)

Soak items for 30 minutes in a 5% solution dish soap and hot 113°F (uncomfortable to the touch) water. The water must remain hot during the entire soaking to be effective.

DRY

Whenever possible, especially if gear was not cleaned, allow items to completely dry and wait at least 48 additional hours before re-using.

FREEZE

Freezing any item solid will kill Didymo, but may not kill other invasive organisms.

AVOID FELT-SOLED WADERS

Consider non-absorbent alternatives, including carbide stud replacement soles, detachable cleats and sticky rubber.



Lakes and Ponds Program

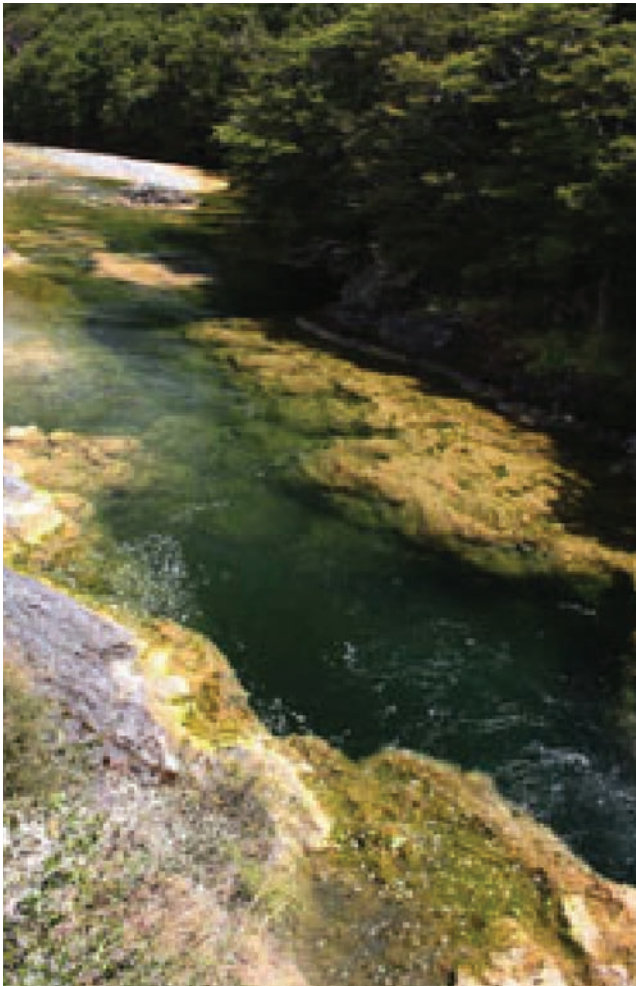


Stop the Spread of DIDYMO

Didymosphenia geminata
An Invasive Algae
(a.k.a. Rock Snot)

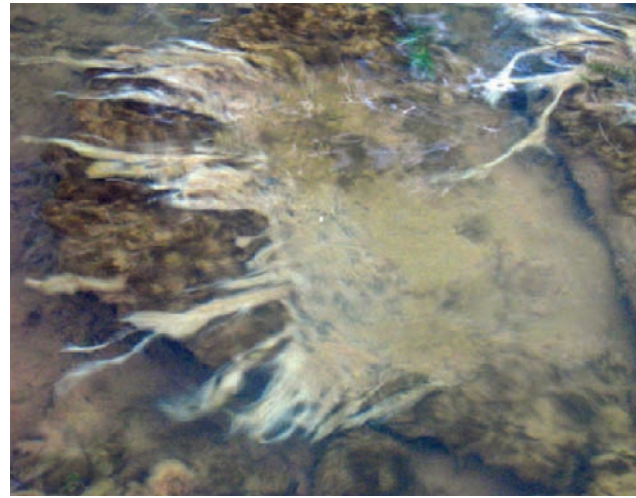
What is Didymo?

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is a type of highly invasive algae that attaches to plants, rocks and other hard substrates in rivers and streams. Also called Rock Snot, due to its slimy appearance, Didymo can produce thick mats that cover the stream bed, making fishing, swimming or paddling undesirable, or even impossible.



Infestations of Didymo can cause serious environmental impacts such as loss of habitat for fish and other organisms. Not all species of *Didymosphenia* are invasive.

Where is Didymo?



Didymo is native to the northern hemisphere, and historically only occurred in low-nutrient waters at high latitudes. However, since the mid-1980s Didymo has been taking on the characteristics of an invasive species.

Didymo generally prefers cool, clear, fast-flowing sunlit streams (typical trout streams), but has been expanding its ecological range into lakes and nutrient-rich water bodies in lower latitudes.

Please keep Didymo out of Massachusetts

As of 2008, Didymo has not been reported in Massachusetts. However, it has been identified nearby in Vermont's White River and Battenkill River, and in portions of the Connecticut River in both Vermont and New Hampshire.

If you think you have found Didymo, please report it to:

www.mass.gov/czm/invasives/index.htm
617-626-1218

How to Identify Didymo

Didymo begins as small circular brown blotches on rocks and other substrates. These may develop into beige mats that can be up to 10-12" thick. As the stalks lengthen, the tips begin to fray and appear gray or white, and often resemble wet tissue paper. Although Didymo appears slimy, it has a rough damp wool texture and strongly attaches to the substrate. Unlike other algae, Didymo does not come apart when rubbed between your fingers.

