

How can you prevent the spread of didymo?

Humans are the primary vector responsible for the recent spread of didymo.

Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. Pets are also capable of spreading didymo.

The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions.

To prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, DEP asks that anglers, especially those who also fish the Farmington River or streams outside Connecticut, and other users practice **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** procedures.

CHECK: Before leaving the water, remove all obvious clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing & footwear, canoes & kayaks and anything else that has been in the water. Leave them at the site. If you find any later, clean your gear and dispose of all material in the trash.

CLEAN: Soak/spray & scrub boats and all other "hard" items for at least one minute in either very hot (140°F) water, a 2% bleach solution, or a 5% dishwashing detergent solution. Absorbent materials such as clothes and felt soles on waders should be soaked for at least 40 minutes in very hot water (140°F), or 30 minutes in hot water (115°F) with 5% dishwashing detergent. **FREEZING THOROUGHLY WILL ALSO KILL DIDYMO.**

DRY: Drying will also kill didymo, but items must remain completely dry (inside and out) for at least 48 hours.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Additional Guidelines

- When outdoors use only small quantities of cleaning agents such as bleach, dishwashing detergent, and other chemical compounds. Always avoid using cleaning agents streamside or in areas where they can drain into surface waters.
- When possible clean all gear, boots, boats and clothing at home.
- If entering multiple streams in one day, please enter waters known to contain didymo (i.e. Farmington River) last.

Don't forget to properly wash and dry your pets after they leave waters known to contain didymo!



(Munson, Bernese Mountain Dog, swimming in the West Branch Farmington River)

Individuals wishing to report possible sightings of didymo and other aquatic nuisance species can contact:

Department of Environmental Protection
Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

860-424-3474
dep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov

For more information on didymo:

- CT DEP website:
(www.ct.gov/dep)
- CT Angler's Guide:
(www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/fishing/anglers_guide/anguide.pdf)
- Biosecurity New Zealand website:
(www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo).

Didymo

(*Didymosphenia geminata*)

(a.k.a. "Rock Shot")



Learn what you can do to help prevent the spread of this invasive alga!



State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division
www.ct.gov/dep

What is didymo?

Didymo is an invasive freshwater alga that is most frequently found in cold, relatively shallow streams and rivers having a rocky bottom, characteristics that are also typical of good trout habitat.

During blooms, didymo can form thick mats of material that feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color.



These mats form on the bottoms of rivers and streams. If dense mats of didymo develop, they can reduce the recreational and aesthetic value of the affected river.

Since didymo also prefers areas open to sunlight, it is not anticipated that this species will become problematic in smaller headwater streams as long as they have well shaded and naturally forested riparian areas.

Didymo does not present a hazard to human health or to pets.

Where is didymo?

The presence of didymo was first confirmed in the northeastern United States in 2007.

It has since spread to suitable waters in a number of northeastern states (New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia).



Didymo has recently been discovered (March 2011) in portions of the West Branch Farmington River in northwest Connecticut.

Signs will be posted in areas where didymo has been found.

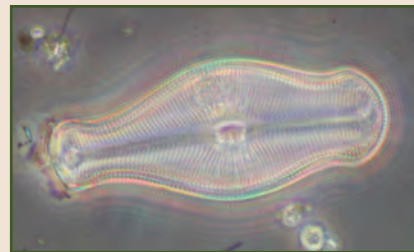


Image of the single cell diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* under microscope magnification.

How to tell if you may be seeing Didymo

	YES	NO
Location	mostly clear flowing water with rocky bottom, may be attached to plants	deep silty areas with no rocks or plants, highly colored waters.
Color	tan, light brown or whitish	green or dark brown/black clear or transparent
Texture	clumps or ropy strands, rough cottony feel, fibrous	thin layers, slippery or gelatinous
Appearance	no leaves or roots (BUT may attach to leaves or stems). Sometimes mistaken for fiberglass, toilet paper or tissue.	has leaves or roots looks like an aquatic plant

If your sample matches three of the “yes” descriptions above and was found in another river or stream **we'd like to know!**

Please send a dime-sized sample in a small container or in a sealable plastic bag to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number or e-mail address so that we may contact you.

Also, please provide a detailed description of where you found your sample: name of the river or stream, the town, and precise location (such as GPS coordinates, nearest road, a clearly marked map, or a street address).