

Onekama Township Board
Invasive Species Report
October 6th, 2010



The last treatment of the 2010 invasive plant species treatment in Portage Lake was done on September 27th 2010 by Professional Lake Management. 64 acres of eurasian watermilfoil were treated. This was in addition to the 22 acres that were treated on June 24th for a total of 86 acres that were identified and treated this year. Last year 161 acres were treated so the amount has been decreased by nearly half. We are hoping that we will have a significant decrease next year after these 2 years of treatment. However, there are many factors that affect the growth of milfoil. Our very warm summer provided a great growing season for all plants.

Phragmites was also treated for 5 days in September by Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions. They completed their treatments on September 17 th. In addition to the treatments around the lake, other areas that were identified in the township were also treated. Last year 81 acres of phragmites were treated and an estimated 10 acres were identified and treated this year. We have not yet received the final report on the phragmites treatments.

The success of Onekama Township's early detection and rapid response has resulted in the Invasive Species Committee recommending that the special assessment for 2010 be reduced to 50% of the 2009 amount vs the 75% that was recommended in the 5 year management plan. The amount assessed on the 2010 winter taxes would be \$72,366.

The committee is meeting with Jennifer Jones on October 28th to discuss this year's treatment and lake monitoring results. The estimates for eurasian watermilfoil and phragmites treatments for next year will be discussed. Reports will be expected by February.

There are several other invasives in our township. Autumn olive, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed and purple loosestrife are at the top of the list. The committee will continue to research best practices for eradication and control of these and assist homeowners in treatment methods.