

DIDYMO



Didymo, also known as 'rock snot', grows extensively over the rocks in a river, excluding all other benign algal species, which provide food for invertebrates on which fish feed. It makes fishing and other riverine activities more difficult and less pleasant, but it is not considered harmful to human health.

STOP THE SPREAD

The troutfishing season started Saturday, 1st October. It is now crucial that anglers and other water users become aware of the requirements of the controlled area notice introduced where didymo has been found. Anyone who enters these rivers or fishes in its tributaries will need to treat their equipment as advised by Biosecurity New Zealand:

Dedicate equipment

Whenever possible, use equipment, boats, materials, clothing or other items for exclusive use in a single waterway. This reduces the chance of spreading aquatic pests (not just Didymo) to other waterways.

Decontaminate equipment

To ensure you do not spread Didymo you must clean all items that have been in affected waters.

Inspect: Before leaving the river remove all obvious clumps of algae and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the affected site. If you find any later, do not wash them down drains. Treat them with the

approved cleaning methods below, dry them and put them in a rubbish bin.

Clean and Dry:

1. Soak and scrub all items in hot (60 degree) water or 2% solution of household bleach, or 5% solution of salt, nappy cleaner, antiseptic cleaner or household detergent.
2. If cleaning is not possible, items must be completely dry for at least 48 hours before entering any other waterways.

Fish and Game New Zealand is working with Biosecurity New Zealand, local authorities, the Department of Conservation, recreational users and landowners to identify the range of didymo and seeking to contain the infestation as much as possible.

Please notify one of these agencies if you have evidence of didymo being in other New Zealand rivers.

More information on didymo is available from the **Biosecurity New Zealand** website at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/plants/didymo/>

Southland Fish & Game also have information on their pages, go to:

http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/SITE_Default/SITE_your_region/SITE_Southland/Southland.asp

Further information is available by calling:

0800 80 99 66 or online at **www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo**