

GET TO KNOW DIDYMO !

An exotic plant called "Didymo" (*Didymosphenia geminata*) has invaded this river. This colonial algae forms brown mats with white streamers that can look like toilet paper. Didymo is bad news. At times it can densely cover miles of river, making it difficult to fish. It can also smother the bugs that trout and other fish need to eat.

At this time, nothing can be done to remove Didymo from this river. Didymo can spread to new waters on any item(s) that came in contact with Didymo infested waters, including fishing gear (especially felt wading boots), watercraft, and even people or pets. Didymo is difficult to kill and can live for weeks out of the water if it remains damp. You can prevent its spread to other waters by thoroughly cleaning your gear before entering new waters.

Clean your wading or boating gear as follows:

- 1) **Remove** any obvious clumps of algae from wading boots and other gear as you leave the river.
- 2) **Kill Didymo** – choose a method that will not harm your equipment
 - a. Allow all items that came in contact with the water to completely dry then keep them dry for another 48 hours, or
 - b. Soak items for one minute in a 2% bleach solution (1 cup of bleach mixed with 3 gallons of water) or a 5% solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent (2.5 cups mixed with 3 gallons of water). Scrub or spray larger items such as watercraft, with the same solution ensuring surface contact for at least one minute.

People or pets should be washed using soap or shampoo.

Didymo on the Web: <http://www.tva.com/river/neighbors/aug05/algae.htm>
<http://www.epa.gov/Region8/water/monitoring/didymosphenia.html>



Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency