

D*idymopsisolenia geminata*, also known as Didymo, or Rock Snot (for its appearance) is an invasive alga. It has been discovered in the northern Connecticut River from Pittsburgh through Nothumberland. It can cover stream beds, disturb habitat and create an unappealing river experience. It is easily spread by people. While it cannot be eradicated (at this time) it can be controlled through public education.

Where did Didymo come from?

Didymo was likely introduced by contaminated fishing gear. It originally grew in cold, low nutrient, high clarity streams. It has shifted in habitats where it survives, including streams in warmer climates, with more nutrients, and moderate clarities. Didymo is currently found in Scotland, Poland, the Northwest U.S., Quebec, British Columbia and New Zealand.

Why is Didymo a problem?

Didymo will change the bottom appearance, structure, and food web of a stream. Common invertebrates found on the bottoms of streams will change to more worm-like and snail communities. The brownish/white stalks are unpleasant to see and recreate in.

What can I do to control Didymo?

- **CHECK** – Remove all visible clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing, water shoes, sandals, canoes and kayaks, *and anything else* that has been in the water.
- **CLEAN** – Soak and scrub all items for at least 10 minutes in *very hot water* with lots of soap. Felt-soled waders need to soak in hot soapy water for 30 minutes!
- **EDUCATE** - Tell anyone you know who use rivers in New Hampshire or Vermont about Didymo. More information and access to additional brochures and warning signs is given inside.

Help wipe out Rock Snot



This invasive algae can cover stream beds, disturb habitat and make a mess. It is transported by people, boats, waders or anything that contacts infected waters.

Where is Didymo generally found?

Didymo is found in rivers with stable bottoms such as cobble or rock. Water conditions are usually clear, cool (optimal temperature is about 60°F), have high light penetration, and lower nutrients. Water flow is generally moderate to moderately fast.

Since Didymo is an alga, it can grow in lakes, ponds, or other freshwater systems. However, it will generally not reach bloom conditions in these ponded systems.

What to do if I think I saw Didymo?

See the check list below. If your sample matches three or four of the YES descriptions then send it to the NH Department of Environmental Services or the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (addresses below).

CHECK THE:	YES, it may be Didymo	NO, it's probably not Didymo
Location	Mostly clear flowing water with rocky bottom.	Deep silty areas with no rocks or plants, highly colored water.
Color	Tan, light brown or whitish.	Green or dark brown/black.
Texture	Clumps of ropy strands, rough cottony, 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.	Leaves or roots. Looks like an aquatic plant.

- Include location description, estimate of area impacted, and date/time sample was collected.
- GPS coordinates or a map are very helpful.
- Samples can be folded into a business card, or placed into a jar or plastic bag.

How does Didymo spread?

This alga is so small it can go unobserved as a single cell. It can remain alive for several weeks out of water if kept moist. Because of this it is easily spread. Felt soled waders are often to blame, as fishermen use them to grip on slippery rock bottoms. The alga attaches to the felt, and if not cleaned, it can spread to another water-body. Any recreational equipment can spread Didymo - bait buckets, neoprene diving gear, water shoes/sandals, canoes, kayaks, life jackets, etc.

Where is it found in the Northeast?

As of 2008, Didymo extends from just north of Lake Francis in Pittsburg, NH, down through Northumberland, NH on the Connecticut River. Portions of the White River, VT, downstream of the Stony Brook confluence are infested, and the Batten Kill river between Vermont and New York, the East and West Branches of the Delaware River in New York and Pennsylvania, and the Mad River in Vermont support it.

Can it be eradicated?

No. However, researchers are working on control and eradication methods.

What is the strategy to combat Didymo?

Biologists from the VT and NH environmental agencies are coordinating strategies to track and monitor Didymo. More information will be posted on the NH/VT web-sites as it becomes available.

For more information:

In New Hampshire:

NH Department of Environmental Services
Limnology Center
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2248 or visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/exoticspecies/index.htm>

In Vermont:

VT Department of Environmental Conservation
Didymo Identification
Water Quality Division
103 S. Main St., Bldg 10N, 1st Floor
Waterbury VT 05671-0408
(802) 241-3777 or visit http://www.vtwaterquality.org/akes/htm/ans/lp_didymo.htm

**If you see this sign, you are in infected waters.
Follow the cleaning procedures carefully.**



WARNING



The invasive algae "didymo" is present in this river

STOP ROCK SNOT

After leaving this water:

CHECK - Remove all visible clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing, water shoes and sandals, canoes and kayaks, **and anything else** that has been in the water.

CLEAN - Using HOT tap water and lots of soap: **Scrub** boats and other "hard" items thoroughly; **Soak** clothes, felt-sole waders and other "soft" items for **30 minutes!!!!**

Get more information:
In Vermont, contact the VT DEC at 802-241-3777
or visit www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/dec.htm
In New Hampshire, contact the NH DES at 603-271-2248
or visit www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/exoticspecies

Please do your part - Don't Spread Didymo!



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