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Question:

What is the difference between the type of lily pad that is good to see in the ponds and those that should be removed?

Answer:

Most of the floating lily pads you see in Florida are native. The lilies in Jacaranda are called Spadderdock and they have a yellow flower. Others that you may see around are the Fragrant waterlily and they have a white flower. We occasionally target lily pads because of homeowner requests. Depending on the depth of the pond, lily pads can stretch across the entire surface. We see them a lot in littoral areas where other plants have trouble propagating. In some communities where this occurs and littoral coverage is required, we treat the lily pads outside of a littoral area due to home owner's request. Every community is different and every pond is different. Establishing the line where we want to treat the lily pads is the concern. If it were up to our discretion we would leave the lily pads because they have many positive effects on a pond, from blocking sunlight in turn reducing algae production, and they provide food and habitat for wildlife.

Because these are storm water retention ponds, navigation in these water ways is not a main concern, however if they do inhibit flow in the storm water system, this is where action would be taken to control the population of lilies present. Sometimes we encounter a submersed invasive species that would need to be controlled; inadvertently the lily pads would also see collateral damage.