



Often Confused with:

1. Duckweed
2. Water Meal



Azolla, Mosquito Fern *Azolla Carolina*

Azolla floats on the water's surface with its short hair like roots extending into the water. Color may vary from solid green to dark red and any combination in-between. Azolla prefers slow quiet waters with at least some shade and can be found over most of the Gulf Coast.

Azolla is a true fern and its leaves are somewhat fern-like. Small leaves resembling scales overlap to form each plant. Because they are true ferns they are capable of reproducing by spores as well as

sexual and asexual reproduction. Azolla also forms a symbiotic relationship with the algae Anabaena which allows it to extract Nitrogen out of the atmosphere. With this advantage a mass of Azolla can double in size or weight in as little as three days.

Due to its rapid growth we don't recommend the transport of propagation of



Azolla

Azolla, furthermore lakes and ponds that have Azolla should be treated regularly to ensure this vegetation stays in check. Its name Mosquito fern comes from the plants ability to completely cover the waters surface and restrict oxygen transfer which reduces survival of mosquito larva. As much as 1,000 years ago Azolla was used to aid in Rice production. Roughly 49 million years ago Azolla is thought to have altered the course of the world with what is known as the "Azolla Effect."

Control of Azolla

Azolla can be difficult to control. Rapid growth rates and multiple forms of reproduction allow this plant to spread rapidly. Reward based treatments offer the fastest results. Because Reward and other diquat based products can kill plants in 24-48 hours there is significant chances of oxygen depletions associated with these treatments. When plants

are covering a better portion of the pond it's best to do treatments in small sections. Diquat treatments offer no residual results so vegetation may begin to reestablish immediately after treatment.

Sonar offers slower but more long term results. 45-90 days are usually required for proper die off

but results usually last for 8-10 months. Since Sonar takes longer to be effective there is little chance of Oxygen problems. Sonar carries irrigation restrictions that are far greater than that of Reward. Grass Carp will consume Azolla though complete control is unlikely. Azolla is roughly #7 on the list of preferred foods of Grass Carp.

Treatment Options:

1. Reward—\$115/ac
2. Sonar—\$95/ac

Note: All prices are estimated and based on one acre foot of water and subject to change.