

	Mechanical Harvesting	Herbicides
Effectiveness of Control		
Reliability [difficulty in obtaining consistent results in different lakes (Potential failure of treatments)]	Never fails	Can fail
Time to relief	Immediate	7 to 14 days (45-60 with fluridone)
Vegetation is collected and removed from the lake	Yes (Nutrients in plants are removed from lake)	No (Nutrients in plants are NOT removed from lake)
Duration of control (and need for multiple treatments)	Shorter?	Longer?
Creation of channels	Good	Not so good
Control of plants over a large area	Not so good	Good
Additional Considerations		
Cost	Often higher	Often lower
Variability in cost	higher	lower
Disposal of harvested plants	Can be difficult to find a place where plants can be delivered	Not applicable (plants decompose in lake)
Potential spread within a lake	Should not be employed on lakes where the distribution of milfoil is limited	Can be employed on lakes where the distribution of milfoil is limited
Effects on non-target organisms or lake ecosystem		
Removes invertebrates, fish, frogs, snakes, turtles, etc	Yes	No
When target plant is an exotic, removal or destruction of native vegetation	Yes	Yes or no, depending on particular herbicide used
Increased fragmentation	More	Less
Disturbs sediment and causes suspension of sediment in the water column, which in turn may reduce water clarity	Often does, likely to a greater extent	May do so, likely to a lesser extent
Potential negative effects of introducing chemicals into the aquatic environment	No (except hydraulic fluid and oil from breaks in lines)	Yes
Restrictions on use of water after treatment	No	In some cases
Selectivity	Limited or none	Some are, some are not
Minnesota Regulations (M.R. 6280)		
Small area can be treated without a permit to control milfoil or other submersed aquatic plants	Yes	No (<i>Always</i> requires a permit from the DNR)
Limit on the amount of area that may be treated	50% of the littoral zone	15% of the littoral zone