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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Felt Soles or NOT?

Re: Felt Soles or NOT?

Author: : afishinado

Date: : 2008/9/23 11:30:03

URL:

Didymo is native to North America, and was found mainly in northern-most latitudes. Lately it has spread into more southern waterways. A single didymo cell is capable of spreading the algae. Given the porous makeup of felt wading soles, it is often pointed at as a likely cause to the spread. A single algae cell can also be carried on your boot laces, inside the tongue of your boot, in your gravel guard, anywhere on your waders or on any other equipment that contacts the water. As well, anywhere on your boat, kayak or float tube as well as boat trailer tires, wheels, or on your SUV tires and wheels. Also waterfowl can and do carry the cells from one waterway to the next.

Banning felt will do little if anything to help prevent the spread of didymo. The most likely result will be wader manufacturers will have reason to charge more for “green” boots and waders that don’t work nearly as well as the old ones. I would stay with felt soles for safety reasons, while doing your best to keep them clean along with all your equipment.