



Didymo-An Alien Invader Changing our Streams



Didymo, or rock snot, is a microscopic algae invading freshwater streams. Didymo colonies smother streambeds and large aquatic insects with thick brown cotton ball-like mats.

How will Didymo Impact Streams in Catoctin Mountain Park?

Didymo is native to European and some northern North American streams. It is not native to the United States. Its presence threatens cool water stream eco-systems, trout populations and recreational stream use. Didymo was found in Maryland's Gunpowder Falls in 2008 and in Savage River in 2009.

Didymo has been found in Big Hunting Creek, but not yet in Owens

Creek. With your help we can prevent the spread of this algae.

Research shows that Didymo reduces the population of larger insects leaving only smaller insects for trout to eat, often resulting in smaller trout sizes. Fishing in Didymo-infested waters could result in tangled lures and the spread of the algae if equipment is not cleaned properly.

The Effects



PROTECT

Know the stream where you are wading; if you are in an area containing didymo, do not walk upstream into non-infested waters or into another body of water. Please remove debris from your equipment before leaving the site.

WASH

Clean all equipment that has been in contact with stream water at designated cleaning stations. When cleaning equipment at home, soak and scrub with at least a 5% solution of dish washing detergent for at least one minute (1 cup of detergent to make 1 gallon of solution). *Note that eco-friendly dish detergents are less effective.*

DRY

Even after cleaning, all fishing equipment, including lines and lures must air dry for at least 48 hours. Didymo can survive for months on slightly moist equipment.

Our Thanks

Didymo is a serious threat to our waterways. It degrades stream habitats and disrupts recreational activities, including fishing.

It only takes one drop of infested water to spread didymo. Even if you can't see it, you can still spread it to other water systems.

Please clean your infested equipment on site at park-provided cleaning stations or at home with a 5% solution of dish washing detergent.

With your help, we can slow the spread of Didymo and protect our streams for future generations.

Remember to **PROTECT -WASH - DRY.**



Cleaning stations contain a salt water solution that sanitizes your equipment. Scrub waders with the provided brush for one minute. The equipment may appear clean, but still needs to air dry for at least 48 hours.

BE SAFE! Dry all equipment for at least 48 hours before use in other streams or waterways.

