

COLTSFOOT: An Invasive Plant Threatening Glen Lake's Shoreline & Your Property

What is Coltsfoot and Why is it Dangerous?

- An aggressive, alien, and invasive plant currently observed only on Glen Lake's eastern shore. If left untreated, it has the capacity to infest the entire shoreline.
- It will out-compete our native plants, a loss which will in turn harm our native birds and other wildlife.
- It can kill Glen Lake's special plant, the rare Michigan Monkey Flower.
- It will affect property values.

HOW DO I IDENTIFY COLTSFOOT?

- The flower and seed heads look like dandelions and emerge in the early spring before the leaves.
- The leaves are heart-shaped, wider than long, typically 3 – 7" wide. Some consider the shape similar to the shape of a colt's footprint. The top side is dark green, the back side is lighter- almost white – and fuzzy to the touch. We have observed some leaves yellowing.
- The plant forms a dense, spreading colony of foliage up to 18" high. It can spread indefinitely.

You Can Help Stop It!

- Search for it on your shoreline. If you think you've found it report it to Mama Bear Restorations or the Glen Lake Association. Either group can help with identification.
- Warn your neighbors if you find Coltsfoot on your property.
- Join a Deadheading Brigade thru Mama Bear Restorations or the Glen Lake Association. Deadheading removes blossoms before they produce seeds.
- When the leaves emerge treat as detailed below.



How to Eliminate Coltsfoot from Your Property:

- **Do not attempt to dig!** Digging does not eliminate it. Root fragments remaining in the soil will sprout again.
- Only plants at the water's edge in danger of washing away should be collected to prevent further spreading. Contact Mama Bear Restorations or the Glen Lake Association regarding safe disposal.
- Join the community of local homeowners now organizing to contract with a licensed herbicide professional, who will use the safest and most effective methods. Contact Mama Bear Restorations for details.
- Smother and bake it (called solarization). Cover the Coltsfoot with dark, heavy material such as pond liner which is firmly staked to the beach and held down with heavy logs and boulders and leave it there for an entire year.
- Resist the urge to use Round-Up.
 - a. Incorrect application can kill leaves but not Coltsfoot roots or kills grass and other surrounding desirable plants.
 - b. Most Coltsfoot infestations border on the water. Round-up is harmful to many aquatic species.
 - c. The safest herbicides for use around water are only available in large quantities and require mixing and disposal of leftovers.
 - d. If you feel you must treat Coltsfoot with an herbicide, contact Mama Bear Restorations for third party information.

For assistance identifying or for info on eradicating Coltsfoot on your land contact the Glen Lake Association or Laurel Voran of Mama Bear Restorations, 231-409-0483, or by email: Laurel@MamaBearMichigan.com