



# Cattail Control with IMOX®

*Typha spp.*

## Q: What are some of the challenges of using traditional herbicides on cattail?

A: First, it's critical to ensure the product being considered for use is labelled for aquatic use. Aquatic settings can be particularly sensitive, due to the presence of fish, livestock watering, irrigation, swimming, and domestic use. While some aquatic herbicides also carry a terrestrial label, not all herbicides are labelled for both uses, nor are all aquatic herbicides labelled for use in all aquatic environments.

Secondly, many aquatic herbicides traditionally used are non-selective, meaning that they will potentially kill or suppress any plant contacted, raising the potential for non-target injury to nearby plants. This can have a negative effect, harming plants whose roots help maintain soil banks for erosion control at the water's edge.

Third, cattail (*Typha spp.*) is a perennial plant, with two forms of propagation – through airborne/floating seeds and by rhizomes (roots) fragmentation. Growing in and near the water's edge, rhizomes are often submerged, while other parts are emergent.

Through rapid rhizome growth, fragmentation and colonization, cattails can aggressively invade ponds, water ways, and irrigation systems. For this reason, multiple treatments of many herbicide chemistries are required to achieve complete control of heavy infestations.

## Q: What makes IMOX® a great choice for cattail control?

A: IMOX® (active ingredient: imazamox; WSSA B/HRAC 2, ALS inhibitor) has an excellent environmental profile, and is labelled for a wide variety of terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic sites, including many ecologically or otherwise sensitive areas. This provides convenience for the applicator, while having minimal irrigation restrictions (see label for details).

IMOX® is a highly selective herbicide, and is ideal for use where desirable perennial grasses, trees, or other vegetation are desired for erosion control. Because the active ingredient inhibits acetolactase-synthase (ALS), an enzyme found only in plants, there are minimal water use restrictions on treated waters for irrigation and domestic purposes, with no livestock watering, swimming, or fishing restrictions (see label for all details).

IMOX® controls problematic vegetation through foliar application to emergent, actively growing vegetation; and as an in-water treatment for submersed vegetation, or as a preemergent application for terrestrial, riparian, or aquatic weed control. IMOX® is absorbed throughout the plant's actively growing tissues and once treated, plants immediately stop active growth. Chlorosis and subsequent plant death may take up to five weeks for complete control, though symptoms are usually seen as quickly as two weeks post treatment.



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**Q: What other herbicides are recommended for cattail (*typha* spp.) control?**

A: Aside from IMOX®, Alligare offers several other herbicides that are frequently used for cattail control, including:

	<p><b>Glyphosate</b> – non-selective, works best above water surface, systemic activity does kill rhizomes. Frequently utilized alongside IMOX® to “speed up” apparent activity where aesthetics are important.</p>
	<p><b>Diquat</b> – non-selective, quickly killing only the plant cells contacted. Rapid burndown coupled with short activity at the treatment site may allow for same season replanting.</p>
	<p><b>Imazapyr</b> – non-selective, highly effective on most types of vegetation with extended residual time. Excellent reset program for heavy weed infestations.</p>

With each of these herbicides, consult label for use and safety instructions and note that many require special adjuvant for effective use. As a systemic herbicide with delayed activity, large areas of cattails and other nuisance species may be treated at once with IMOX®, as treated plants often require several weeks to collapse and begin the decomposition process. This slower process thereby prevents oxygen depletion in water, alleviating the potential for oxygen-related fish kills.

**Q: What makes IMOX® so versatile?**

A: Labelled for aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial use, IMOX® offers pre- and post-emergent control of problem weeds, and growth suppression of desirable plants on canal banks, all with minimal use restrictions. It is also an excellent tank mix partner with other aquatic herbicides to address a broader spectrum of plants.



**Q: When should applications be made to cattail?**

A: Most perennial vegetation is best addressed following full greenup in the spring, and through the growing season up to the first killing frost in the fall. Many applicators prefer fall application for systemic herbicide use, as energy reserves are being moved downward to the roots at that time, providing better translocation of the product. Herbicide performance may be further optimized through proper adjuvant selection and adequate spray volumes. When applied correctly, IMOX® frequently provides complete clean-up the season following application.



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