

## SLELO PRISM Partners

### Share These Goals:

#### PREVENTION

Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

#### EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

#### COOPERATION

Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment and information.

#### INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring and research.

#### CONTROL

Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:

*ERADICATION* - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.

*CONTAINMENT* - Reduce the spread of established infestations.

*SUPPRESSION* - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

#### RESTORATION

Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

#### EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.



**SLELO PRISM**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario  
Partnership for Regional Invasive  
Species Management

### SLELO PRISM

C/O The Nature Conservancy  
(315) 387-3600 x 7725  
[www.imapinvasives.org](http://www.imapinvasives.org)

### Get Involved

Report Invasive Species Observations at [www.imapinvasives.org](http://www.imapinvasives.org)

Join our invasive species **Volunteer  
Surveillance Network (VSN)**.

For details, contact  
[megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org)

Join our listerv and get notifications for  
upcoming trainings and workshops.

To join follow these steps:

.Email [cce-slelo-l-request@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-slelo-l-request@cornell.edu)

.Type "join" in subject space

.Send a blank email body

SLELO PRISM

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management



## What You Should Know About Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*)



**SLELO PRISM**  
“Teaming up to stop  
the spread of  
invasive species”

Cover Photo: [www.sleloinvasives.org](http://www.sleloinvasives.org) Inside left column photo of didymo colony: Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, INC. [www.mylsa.org](http://www.mylsa.org). Inside right column, didymo identification top photo: Minnesota Sea Grant, [www.seagrant.umn.edu](http://www.seagrant.umn.edu). Inside right column bottom photo of single diatom: [http://nyis.info/index.php?action=invasive\\_detail&id=40](http://nyis.info/index.php?action=invasive_detail&id=40).

## What is Didymo?

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) commonly called rock snot, is a microscopic diatom (type of algae) that grows in shallow waters. It is native to the Northern Hemisphere, including Europe and Asia. More recently, rock snot has been found in North America and New Zealand. Didymo has been confirmed in eight locations in New York since 2007. For a list of locations confirmed to have didymo visit [:www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)

Didymo forms large mats on the bottoms of rivers, streams and lakes. These mats can grow so large and dense that they destroy critical habitat for fish and their prey species, while also disrupting spawning areas. Below is a photo of how dense didymo populations can grow on the bottom of a waterbody.



## Steps You Can Take to Stop the Spread of Didymo:

Didymo can be spread by a single drop of contaminated water. Didymo has become increasingly common in streams and rivers frequented by anglers and other aquatic recreationists, as it is easily transported on the feet of felt tipped hip waders and other fishing equipment. To stop the spread of didymo, clean and disinfect all fishing/recreational gear.

### Control/Management:

To stop the spread of didymo, fishermen should take the following precautions after fishing, especially in known Didymo infested waters.

**Check:** Before leaving the river, remove all clumps of algae from gear and clothing. Leave them at the site, preferably in the sun to dry. If you find clumps later don't wash them down the drain or sewer, treat them with the approved methods below, dry them or, put them in a trash bin.

**Clean:** Soak and scrub all items for at least one minute in either hot (60°C) water, a 2% solution of household bleach (may alter color of fabrics) or a 5% solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner, or dish washing detergent.

**Dry:** If cleaning is not practical (e.g. livestock, pets), after the item is completely dry wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.

## Didymo Identification:

Didymo is nicknamed rock snot for its gooey appearance; it's brownish-yellow in color and has the texture of wet wool or cotton that is hard to pull apart. Despite its gooey appearance, didymo is fibrous to the touch, not slimy or slippery.



This is a microscopic view of a single didymo diatom. Didymo secrete thick, branching stalks which forms the dense tangled mats that cause problems in fresh-water ecosystems; these mats can grow as thick as 8 inches and can cover an area over .5 miles.

