

WARNING

The invasive algae “Didymo” is present in the Delaware River.



How can I tell if I see Didymo?

Didymo can be distinguished from other species by:

Color - beige/brown/white but not green

Touch - feels like wet wool rather than slimy

Strength - securely attaches to stones and does not fall apart when rubbed between your fingers

What is Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*)?

Didymo, or “rock snot,” is an invasive algae that has infested waters in 16 states, and has recently been found in Vermont, Quebec, and New York rivers. It forms dense mats on the river bottom that are barriers to native organisms (caddis, mayflies, and stoneflies). As a result, fish populations can decline, and fishing becomes very difficult.

Didymo is not considered a significant risk to human health.

(Photograph courtesy of Tim Daley – PA DEP)

Didymo spreads easily!

Microscopic cells absorb into and adhere to equipment, clothing, boats or any other damp item. If these items are not cleaned and dried completely, the algae can live for months and spread to other water bodies the next time they are submerged.

STOP THE SPREAD OF ROCK SNOT!

After leaving this water:

Check – Remove all visible clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing, footwear, boats and anything else that has been in the water.

Clean – Using **HOT** tap water and lots of soap. *Scrub* boats and other “hard” items thoroughly. *Soak* clothes, felt-sole waders, and other “soft” items for **30 minutes!!!** Or soak in 2.5-5.0% solution of household bleach (3 ounces bleach /1 gallon water) with water for **10 minutes**.