

## **UTILIZING DRONE TECHNOLOGY IN AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT**

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Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS's), more commonly known as drones, have the potential to revolutionize the way in which aquatic plant applicators manage their waterbodies. As technology continues to improve, UAS's have become more versatile in their functions and can perform a wide array of tasks. Beginning this year, Lee County Hyacinth Control District (LCHCD) has begun integrating drones into their program to aid in plant surveillance, water quality assessment, and aerial herbicide applications. The use of drones in aquatic plant management can allow applicators to see farther, plan smarter, and manage more efficiently.