

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GRASS CARP CONFERENCE

Gainesville, Florida

January, 1978

Editor

Jerome V. Shireman

University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

1979

PREFACE

Weed infestations of freshwaters in the United States, particularly the southern states, have increased tremendously in the past 10 to 20 years. This is especially true of Florida, where exotic plants such as hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata) have infested many water bodies. This submerged plant is established in every major watershed in Florida and has spread from Florida through at least eight states into California. Hydrilla is especially troublesome because control methods are costly.

Chemical weed control programs are presently the most effective control measure; however, the cost of herbicides is increasing and restrictions are becoming more stringent. It is evident that even though nuisance aquatic weeds are increasing, we will, by necessity, use less chemicals for weed control in the future.

In order to reduce chemical needs and achieve long-term control, biological control organisms are being investigated. The most promising of these organisms appears to be the grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella), for it consumes vast quantities of submerged vegetation; however, the environmental impact of this species on sport fish populations is not well documented.

This symposium was organized to bring researchers from various parts of the world together to discuss the role of grass carp as a weed control organism. The papers contained in these proceedings should provide valuable information and insight into future research needs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This conference on the grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella) came into being because of the foresight, interest and work of a great many people whose participation in the session discussions significantly contributed to the broader knowledge on the topic.

Special credit goes to the authors and session moderators. Many of the authors traveled long distances, bringing to the conference expertise, enthusiasm and information from around the world. Without their contributions there would have been no conference of the caliber achieved.

Funding for the conference was provided by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) of the University of Florida. This funding was made possible largely by the interest and leadership of Dr. K.R. Tefertiller, Vice-President for Agricultural Affairs.

Dr. Robert Q. Marston, President of the University insured the success of the conference by his personal invitation to the distinguished scholars and leaders who participated as speakers and contributed papers.

Dr. Milton Morris, Chairman of the IFAS Editorial Department, receives special credit for his personal effort in planning the conference, providing logistical support, and organizing the proceedings. His assistance and support was continuous and unflagging throughout the entire course of the conference and publication of the proceedings.

Editorial assistance was provided by Janos Z. Shoemyen of the IFAS Editorial Department.

I owe a personal debt to Drs. Haller, Shireman and Sutton who not only contributed papers to the conference but assisted in planning the program, selecting topics, organizing the papers and conducting much of the mundane but necessary business of the conference. In addition, Dr. Shireman served as editor of these proceedings.

John F. Gerber
Program Chairman

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