

# THE YARD BLADE

Thank you for purchasing "The Yard Blade"

*We had built a house and needed fill dirt for around the house. Our excavating contractor said we had room for a pond and it would be cheaper than trucking in fill...so yes, lets build a pond. We added some fish, and our neighbors gave us some lily pad plants and other ornamental plants. The pond was great! After a few years though, we had some cattails growing. Ok, I thought, a few is ok. Then, the next year they more than doubled in quantity. The year after that, there were so many that we couldn't actually see the pond anymore. That is when I started thinking about trying to remove them. We could call the excavating contractor to dig out the pond sides again, but we would lose our lily pads and other plants. There are chemicals we could use, but it didn't really seem right to us. We were not sure what it would do to the plants and fish.*

*So, being a machinist, I went to the shop and made a blade and attached it to a broken rake handle, then started cutting them down. Meanwhile, my wife started researching cattail removal methods online and found on the "Cornell Cooperative Extension" website that "drowning" them is a method in which you cut them below the water line. Armed with this information, and experience from cutting some of the cattails down, I made a different cutting blade and went to work on cleaning the pond. We now do a maintenance cleaning of cattails twice a year. The first time is after the 4th of July (because cutting them in the spring actually promotes growth) and then again in the fall. That is when we discovered that it is also a great tool for cleaning up our daylilies and hostas in the yard at the end of their growing season.*

# THE YARD BLADE

## Directions for use

The blade's handle can be turned to the right (Fig. 1) or to the left, (Fig. 2) depending on your preference, by simply loosening the hex head bolt on the bottom, (Fig 3) separating the blade from the handle. Then rotate the blade to line up the pin on the handle with the hole on the blade on either side of the hex bolt. (Fig 3) Lastly, re-tighten the hex bolt.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

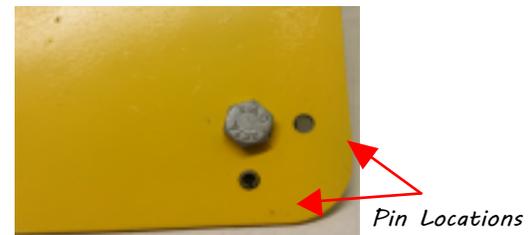


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Mount THE YARD BLADE to a pool skimmer handle using the stainless steel hardware provided. (See Fig. 4) Pool skimmer handles can be purchased from any pool supply store.



Fig. 5

When cutting cattails with THE YARD BLADE, you stand up on the shore of your pond, instead of having to wade through water!



Fig. 6

When you put THE YARD BLADE in the water to cut the weeds in your pond, you will want to pull back straight, keeping the bottom of the blade flat on the ground or bottom of the pond. (See Fig. 6) The angle on THE YARD BLADE will have a slicing motion, to create an easy cut.



Fig. 7

Always cut the plants below the water line to get the drowning affect. You can cut the plants at the root in the mud as well. This will leave a cleaner looking bottom, and getting rid of the roots helps insure that they don't come back soon.



Fig. 8

THE YARD BLADE can also be used to clean up plants in your yard at the end of their growing season.



Fig. 9

When using THE YARD BLADE as instructed, you will have nice clean cuts. (See Fig. 9)

\*As a precaution, when using THE YARD BLADE, it is advised not to wear open toed shoes. Additionally, take care not to hit your leg with THE YARD BLADE. The cutting edge is very sharp and could cause serious injury.