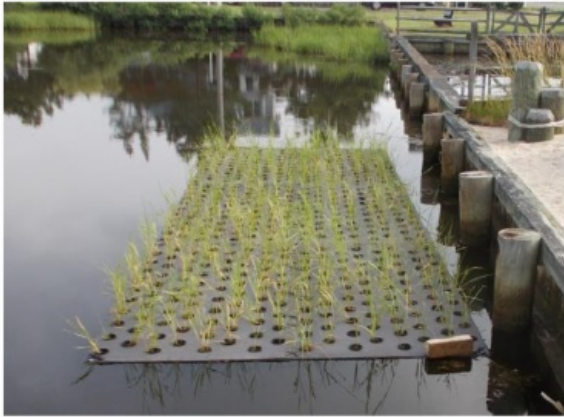




**The Canal Water Quality Committee  
Installed 130 Floating Wetlands Into  
South Bethany Canals Using a DNREC Grant**

Each floating wetland is four feet by eight feet and was planted with 80 two inch diameter plugs of Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina Alterniflora*) salt-tolerant plants. The floating wetland mats (called Beemats) have now been in the canals for over 100 days and have grown significantly. Growth for a typical assembly of mats is shown below.

**Dead End Canals – 100 Day Growth Pictures  
June 20, 2018 To September 28, 2018**



**Anchorage – 6 Mats**

The original grass plugs have grown significantly and have sequestered a large amount of nutrients that are now not available for algal blooms. A nutrient analysis was conducted which shows that the 130 mats have sequestered 28 pounds of nitrogen and 2.4 pounds of phosphorous during the 100 days that they have been growing. The grant proposal had estimated that 38 pounds of nitrogen and 6.8 pounds of phosphorous would be removed during one year. The nitrogen goal will be easily met. The phosphorous goal may not quite be met.

Two thirds of the nutrients are in the grass and one third is contained in the roots. The Town plans to “mow” the grass annually to permanently remove nutrients from the canals. The first “Mowing” will probably occur in December.

Frank Weisgerber  
Councilmember and Canal Water Quality Chairman

**"The Best Little Beach in Delaware"**

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