

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

For All Types of Watercraft:

- Be aware of and, if possible, avoid passing through dense beds of aquatic vegetation
- Inspect your watercraft, all equipment, and trailers after each use for any plant material
- Remove and dispose of **all** plant matter, dirt, mud and other material in a trash can or above the waterline on dry land well away from where it might get washed back into the lake
- Clean and dry all equipment thoroughly before visiting other water bodies

For Non-Motorized Craft Such as rowing shells, canoes, kayaks, and sailboards:

- Open airlocks on shells or air bladders on kayaks after use and allow to dry thoroughly, as plant fragments can survive moist conditions for many days

Around Docks, Launch Sites, and Other Areas:

- If plant fragments are piling up around dock areas, use a rake to remove plant material and dispose in the trash.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Dr. Holly Menninger, Coordinator, New York Invasive Species Research Institute at Cornell University

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Or visit the NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse at:

<http://NYIS.INFO>



<http://NYIS.INFO>

The New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse
Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



The Clearinghouse and the Invasive Species Program are supported by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund through a contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

NOT WANTED!

Hydrilla verticillata



Known aliases: “hydrilla” and “water thyme”

Last known hideout: Cayuga Inlet, Ithaca NY (August 2011) [not yet known to be in Cayuga Lake proper]

[Not] WANTED FOR:

- Being one of the world's worst aquatic invasive plants
- Blocking sunlight and displacing native plants below with its thick, dense surface mats
- Decreasing dissolved oxygen levels and killing fish
- Reducing weight and size of sportfish when open water and natural vegetation are lost
- Eliminating waterfowl feeding areas and fish spawning sites
- Obstructing boating, swimming and fishing
- Reducing the value of shorefront property
- Blocking intakes at water treatment, power generation, and industrial facilities

WHAT IS HYDRILLA?

Hydrilla is a submersed perennial herb native to Australia, Asia and Africa. It roots in the bed of the waterbody and has stems 25 to 30 feet long that branch at the surface, grow horizontally, and form thick, dense mats. It can grow up to an inch per day.

HOW DID HYDRILLA GET HERE?

Hydrilla is believed to have arrived in the US as an aquarium plant in the early 1950s. Its release into the wild was likely a result of people dumping aquaria or by contamination of water garden plantings. We do not know how it got into the Cayuga Inlet, but it is probable that it was transported as plant fragments on a boat launched into the Inlet from an infested waterbody elsewhere in the Northeast.

WHAT DOES HYDRILLA LOOK LIKE?

- Hydrilla has pointed, bright green leaves about 5/8 inches long
- Leaves grow in whorls of 3 - 10 along the stem; 5 is most common
- Leaves have small spines on the edges and at the tips with a redish central spine
- The most identifying characteristics are small, white to yellowish, potato-like tubers attached to the roots, and white floating flowers

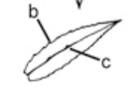
NATIVE and NON-NATIVE LOOKALIKES

Hydrilla may be confused with the common native water weed, *Elodea Canadensis*, which has whorls of 3 smooth-edged leaves.

The other lookalike is the invasive Brazilian elodea, *Egeria densa*, which has finely serrated leaves $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long in whorls of 3 - 6.

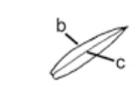
Line art: University of Florida Center for Aquatic Plants

HYDRILLA



- 4 or 5 leaves encircle the stem
- Leaves are "toothed"
- Leaf vein has small spines

ELODEA



- Only 3 leaves encircle the stem
- Leaf edges appear smooth
- Leaf vein is smooth underneath

HOW DOES HYDRILLA SPREAD?

- Hydrilla stems are easily caught and transported by boats and boat trailers
- Even fragments of the plant can sprout roots and establish new populations
- Fragments float and can be spread via wind and water currents

WHERE IS HYDRILLA IN CAYUGA LAKE NOW?

By August 30, 2011, hydrilla was found only within the Cayuga Inlet. Surveys are on-going to determine if the plant has escaped northward into the lake. Partner organizations such as NYS DEC; NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation; Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom; City of Ithaca; Cayuga Lake Watershed Network; and NY Invasive Species Research Institute are trying to keep it that way.

