

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?

Jennifer Tait, NYS DEC, Region 9, Buffalo, NY

Phone: (716)851-7130 E-mail: jrtait@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Or visit the NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse at:

<http://NYIS.INFO> and select Hydrilla from the list of species profiles



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



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NOT WANTED

IN THE ERIE CANAL!

Hydrilla verticillata



Known aliases: “hydrilla” and “water thyme”

Latest known hideout: Erie Canal/Tonawanda Creek, from Tonawanda to Amherst, NY (late-September 2012).

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF HYDRILLA?

- Blocks sunlight/displaces native plants by dense surface mats
- Decreases dissolved oxygen levels and kills fish
- Reduces weight and size of sportfish when open water and natural vegetation are lost
- Eliminates waterfowl feeding areas and fish spawning sites
- Obstructs boating, swimming and fishing
- Reduces the value of shorefront property
- Blocks 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 is considered one of the world's worst aquatic invasive plants. Hydrilla 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?

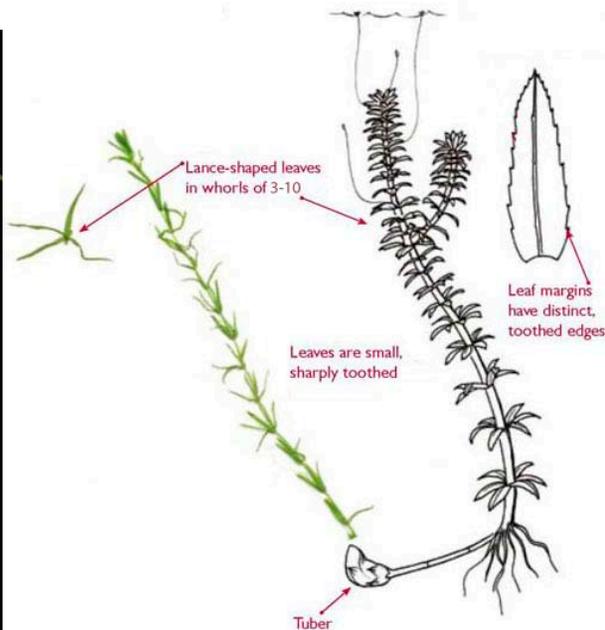
Hydrilla is believed to have arrived in the US in the 1950s as an aquarium plant. It was likely released into the wild by people dumping aquaria or by contamination of water garden plants. It was probably transported as fragments from an infested waterbody elsewhere on a boat launched into the canal or traveling through the canal from another location.

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 teeth on the edges
- Distinguishing characteristics are floating white flowers and small white to yellowish, potato-like tubers attached to the roots



Robert Vidéki, *Doronicum Kft.*,
Bugwood.org



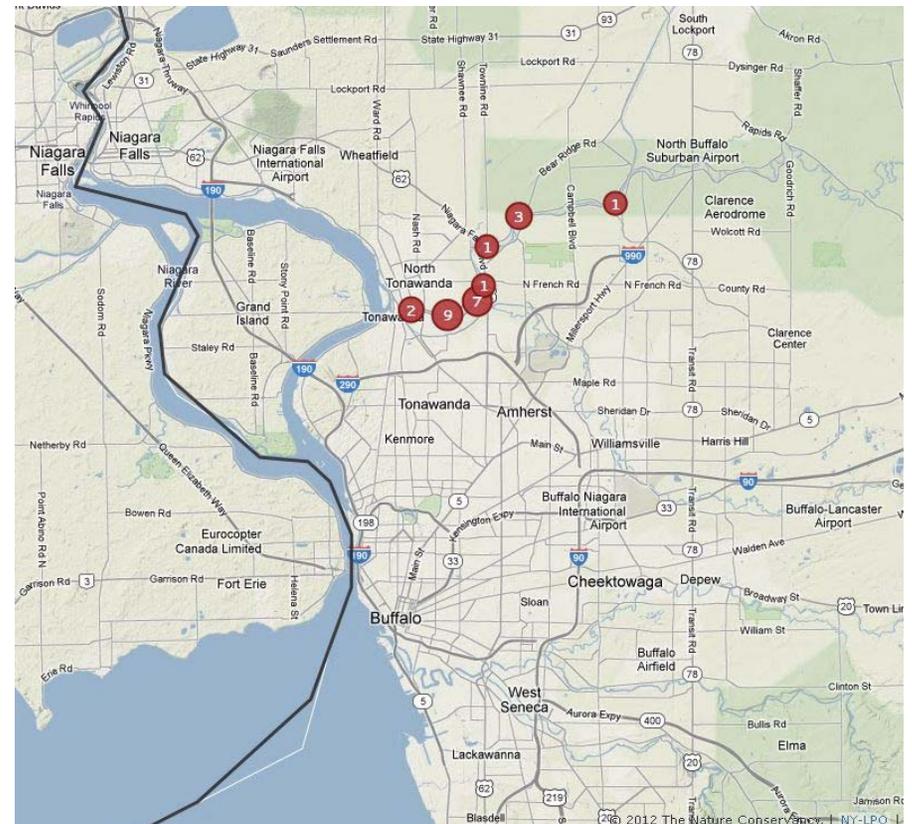
Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (Rev. Oct. 2012, CCE ISP)

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 WESTERN NY NOW?

In August 2011, Hydrilla was found in the Cayuga Lake Inlet in Ithaca. In late-September 2012, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist discovered Hydrilla in the Erie Canal and Tonawanda Creek in North Tonawanda (Niagara Co.). This poses a high risk of infestation in NY and beyond through the Niagara River and Erie Canal system by natural flow, and to many more waters by recreational boating.



- Confirmed sightings of Hydrilla in the Erie Canal/Tonawanda Creek (Niagara Co.) as of October 1, 2012 (courtesy of iMapInvasives)