

# Invasive Aquatic Species: Transportation, Colonization, and Management

*Moderator:* Sandy Kubillus, Integrated Lakes Management

*Panelists:* Bob Kirschner, Chicago Botanic Garden  
Kathy Paap, Lake County Health Dept. - Lakes Mgm't Unit  
Cathy McGlynn, Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership  
Keith Gray, Integrated Lakes Management  
Blake Ruebush, Illinois Department of Natural Resources





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*largemouth bass*



*sago pondweed*

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*common carp*



*Eurasian watermilfoil*

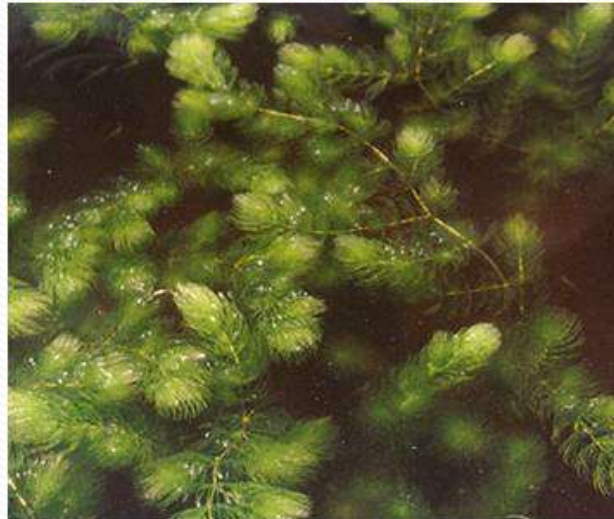
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*Coontail*

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*Asian carp*



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Join the Search!

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- Able to withstand adverse environmental conditions



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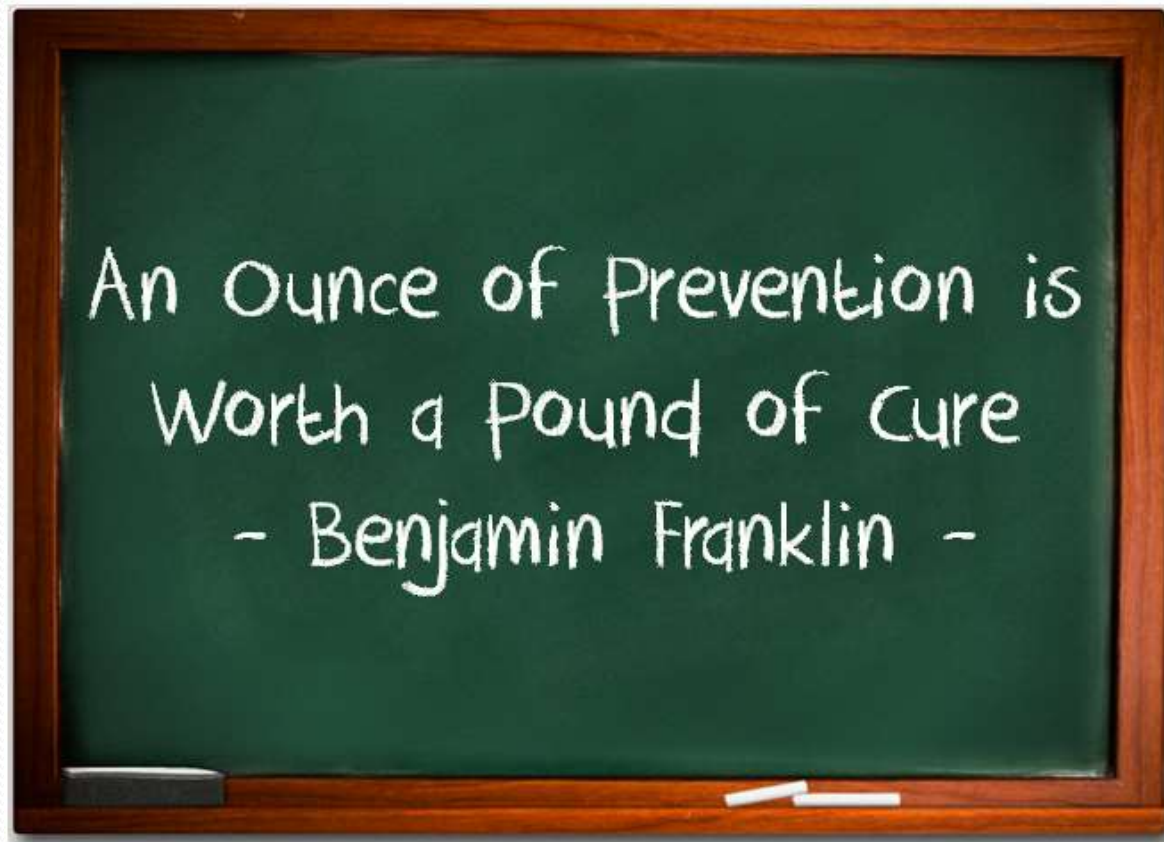
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- Create unsuitable habitat for other native organisms
- Cultural use and economic impacts (*e.g.*, recreation, water supply)
- Once an invasive species becomes established, it's almost always **IMPOSSIBLE** to eradicate

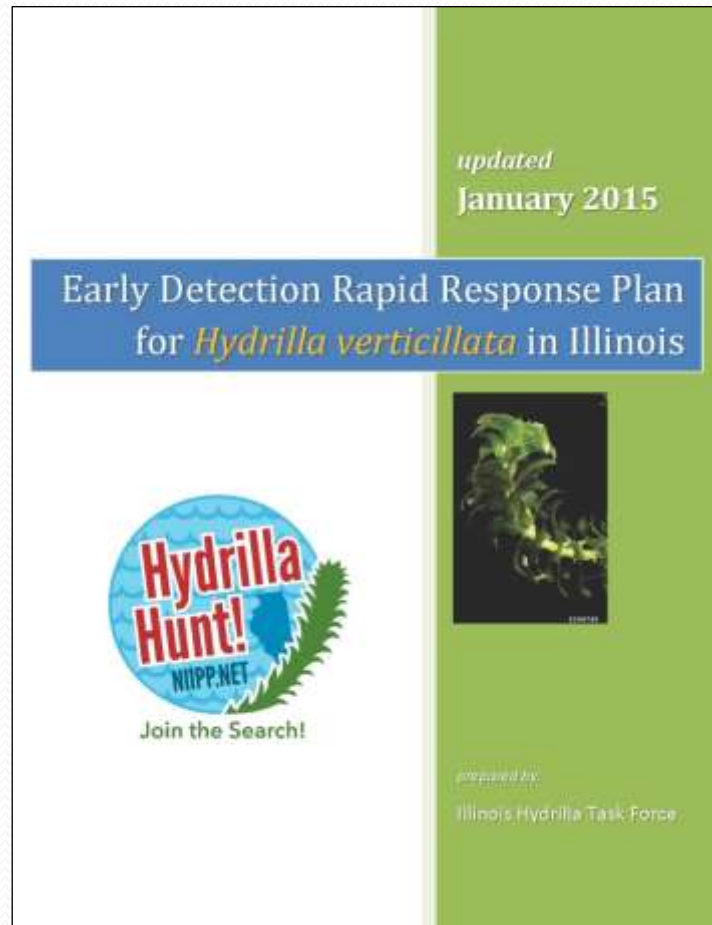


*Yikes! What can we do?*



An Ounce of Prevention is  
Worth a Pound of Cure  
- Benjamin Franklin -

# Early Detection – Rapid Response



*Hydrilla???* I've never heard of it...



# *Native look-alike: Elodea*



Hydrilla



Elodea

*How can I help?*



**Join the Search!**

# Join the search!

UNWANTED:

## Hydrilla

An invasive aquatic plant recently found in neighboring states, hydrilla could be very detrimental to Illinois fishing, boating and swimming along with waterfront property values. Early detection of hydrilla in Illinois could save millions of dollars in control costs.

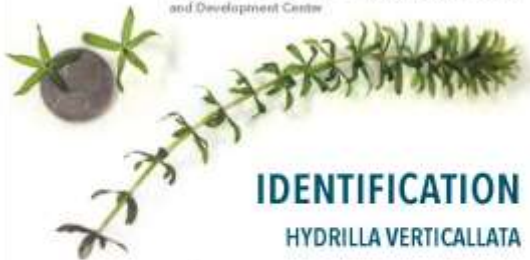
HELP IDENTIFY THIS PLANT EARLY ON  
WHEN POPULATIONS ARE STILL SMALL  
ENOUGH TO ERADICATE AND MANAGE.

Keep this card handy in your boat or tackle box and let us know right away if you think you've found hydrilla. To learn more about hydrilla and the Hydrilla Hunt! program, visit


[www.niipp.net/hydrilla](http://www.niipp.net/hydrilla)



Photo: Michael J. Grodowitz, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center



**IDENTIFICATION**  
HYDRILLA VERTICALLATA



a. whorls of **more than 3** leaves  
b. leaves often have **visibly toothed** edge  
c. leaf vein often has **small visible spines**

Illustration: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida

Notice the toothed edges of hydrilla leaves, as well as the whorls of more than three leaves.




Photo: Robert Vidaki, Dominican KH, Bugwood.org

Think you have found hydrilla? Email us a picture of the plant stem placed on a light-colored background. If you're unable to send a digital picture, email us and we will contact you.

[HydrillaHunt@niipp.net](mailto:HydrillaHunt@niipp.net)

# UNWANTED!



## HYDRILLA COULD IMPACT YOU



Hydrilla mat blocking boat's outboard motor.

Hydrilla is an invasive aquatic "superweed" that's been found recently in Indiana and Wisconsin. Our enjoyment of fishing, swimming, and boating will be dramatically affected if it gets into Illinois' lakes and rivers.

Hydrilla can grow an inch a day and produce a dense mat of stems on the water surface. Early detection of hydrilla could save Illinois millions of dollars in control costs.



[www.niipp.net/hydrilla](http://www.niipp.net/hydrilla)

Take a Hydrilla Hunt! card and keep it handy as you enjoy Illinois' waterways. If you think you've found hydrilla, please let us know right away!

## TAKE A HYDRILLA HUNT CARD!

Photo: Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
www.dnr.state.mi.us

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Illustration: Center for Invasive and Exotic Species, University of Florida

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Photo: Robert Clark, www.niipp.net, August 2012

Think you have found hydrilla? Email us a picture of the plant stem placed on a light-colored background. If you're unable to send a digital picture, email us and we will contact you.

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**HELP IDENTIFY THIS PLANT EARLY ON WHEN POPULATIONS ARE STILL SMALL ENOUGH TO ERADICATE AND MANAGE!**

## ILLINOIS' LEAST WANTED!

Hydrilla is a highly invasive aquatic plant that threatens the health of Illinois' lakes and rivers—as well as fishing, boating, and swimming. It's **very** easily confused with American elodea (a desirable native aquatic plant), as well as Brazilian elodea (another invasive aquatic plant). If you think you've seen **hydrilla** or **Brazilian elodea**, please take a picture and let us know right away—see the reverse side for contact information.



Join the Search!

### INVASIVE

### NATIVE



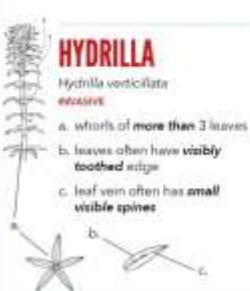
Michael J. Donohue, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center



Christian Dulake, www.invasive.org



Rolf Steinhilber, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest



### HYDRILLA

*Hydrilla verticillata*  
**INVASIVE**

- whorls of **more than 3** leaves
- leaves often have **visibly toothed** edge
- leaf vein often has **small visible spines**



### BRAZILIAN ELODEA

*Egeria densa*  
**INVASIVE**

- whorls of **more than 3** leaves
- leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge
- leaf vein is **smooth** underneath

Wendy Brown, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida



### AMERICAN ELODEA

*Elodea canadensis*  
**NATIVE**

- whorls of **exactly 3** leaves
- leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge
- leaf vein is **smooth** underneath

## HOW CAN I HELP?

If you think you have found hydrilla or Brazilian elodea, please use your phone or digital camera to take one or two close-up photos of a plant stem placed on a light-colored background (then discard the plant fragment in the trash). Email your photos to us at

[hydrillahunt@niipp.net](mailto:hydrillahunt@niipp.net)

We will acknowledge receipt of your email and let you know what we see. If you're not able to send us a digital picture, email us and we will contact you. *Thanks!*

## MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about hydrilla, and for more information about the Hydrilla Hunt! program, visit

[www.niipp.net/hydrilla](http://www.niipp.net/hydrilla)



Richard L. Horne, Illinois, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of

## HYDRILLA: THE PERFECT AQUATIC WEED

Hydrilla is extremely well-adapted for competing in an aquatic environment. It grows quite rapidly—up to one inch a day! Once hydrilla reaches the water surface, it can quickly produce a dense mat of stems that crowds out desirable native plants. Within the past few years, hydrilla has been discovered in Wisconsin and Indiana, and it could arrive in Illinois very soon. Early detection of hydrilla could save Illinois millions of dollars in control costs, and prevent many recreational and ecological impacts. Please help identify this plant early on when populations are still small enough to eradicate and manage!



John J. Donohue, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Richard L. Horne, Illinois, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of



## TUBERS: A SPECIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF HYDRILLA

Hydrilla produces tubers that grow in the sediment of lakes and streams. Each tuber can produce a new plant. The tubers are less than 1/8 inch long and can remain alive for many years.

**NOTE:** native American elodea (*Elodea canadensis*) and Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) do **not** produce tubers.

Notice the toothed edges of hydrilla leaves, as well as the whorls of more than three leaves.

Photo: Richard L. Horne, Illinois, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of





*Moving forward...*

*Whose plant is it anyway?*



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- B. Lakebed property owner
- C. Illinois Dept. of Agriculture
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# *State and federal regulations*

- Illinois Aquatic Life Code
- Illinois Injurious Species List
- Illinois Noxious Weed List
- Federal Noxious Weed List
- Local regulations

*Moving forward...*

