

## INVASIVE ALERT

# Hydrilla Found in DuPage County

Recently Hydrilla, a highly invasive aquatic plant, was discovered in DuPage County. This is the first known occurrence in DuPage County and only the second known report in Illinois. Considered one of the world's worst aquatic weeds, Hydrilla can grow up to an inch per day and form dense mats of vegetation, with negative impacts on boating, fishing, swimming, native aquatic wildlife, and property values. Control and eradication efforts can cost millions of dollars over many years.

State and local agencies are working together to track the spread of this aggressive invasive in our waterways and determine the most appropriate containment and eradication strategies. Be aware that this plant looks very similar to our native Elodea species, but there are a few key features that can be used to differentiate them. Hydrilla has whorls around the stem of more than 3 leaves with often visibly toothed edges. See the back of this flyer for details on identifying this invasive species.

It appears that the Hydrilla found in DuPage County may have been unintentionally released from a homeowner's aquarium or a water garden. Hydrilla is listed as a Federal Noxious Weed, meaning it is illegal to buy, sell, or transport. It is also banned in the State of Illinois. However, it is oftentimes still found in the aquarium and water garden trade.



Invasive hydrilla. Darkmax, Wikimedia Commons.

Do your part to limit the spread of this invasive aquatic plant by following these actions:

**REMOVE** all plants, animals, and mud from any equipment that is used in waterbodies.

**DRAIN** all water from your boat and gear.

**DRY** everything thoroughly with a towel or heat.

**DO NOT DISPOSE** of aquarium or water garden plants and animals into waterbodies.



### **IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED HYDRILLA IN YOUR WATERBODY:**

**Please notify the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Nuisance Species Program at [dnr.ans@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.ans@illinois.gov). For additional information on Hydrilla, please refer to the Great Lakes Hydrilla Collaborative: [hydrillacollaborative.com](http://hydrillacollaborative.com).**

# Identify Invasive Hydrilla

## INVASIVE



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

### HYDRILLA

*Hydrilla verticillata*

- Whorls of **more than** 3 leaves
- Leaves often have **visibly toothed** edge
- Leaf vein often has small **visible spines**

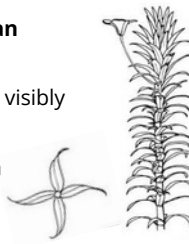


Christian Fischer, Wikimedia Commons

### BRAZILIAN ELODEA

*Egeria densa*

- Whorls of **more than** 3 leaves
- Leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge
- Leaf vein is **smooth** underneath



## NATIVE

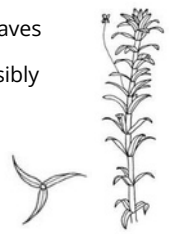


Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest

### AMERICAN ELODEA

*Elodea canadensis*

- Whorls of **exactly 3** leaves
- Leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge
- Leaf vein is **smooth** underneath



Wilfredo Robles, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

Hydrilla leaves have toothed edges and are arranged in whorls of more than three leaves around the stem.

Hydrilla grows densely and can take over lakes and streams.



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

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