Hydrilla Early Detection Rapid Response Plan for Illinois

Photo Credit: USGS, Caleb James

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Introduction to Hydrilla: An aquatic superweed

Hydrilla verticillata

UF-Gainesville
Important Species Characteristics

• Rapid growth
• Tolerance of wide range of water quality
• Turions
• Tubers
• Vegetative spread
Why it’s important to have a plan

- Proximity of infestations
- Expense and difficulty of eradication and control
- Ecological impacts
- Recreational water use effects
Hydrilla Management Plan

- Statewide
- Early Detection & Rapid Response
- Public, nonprofit, and private sector
Early Detection

- Education and outreach
- Training target audiences
- Expanding monitoring and reporting
- Increased access to distribution information
Education and Outreach

Existing outlets:

- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
- Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership
- River to River CWMA
- Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program
- Illinois Lakes Management Association
Training Target Audiences

• Boaters
• Anglers
• Recreational water users
• Monitors
• And you…
LOOK-ALIKES:

Brazilian Waterweed; leaves longer, in whorls of 4 - 6 (8), bushier in appearance, without tubers.

Hydrilla; leaves in whorls of 3 - 8 with tiny spines along the leaf margins. The midrib of each leaf is often reddish. Hydrilla produces tubers (small potato-like structures).

Common Waterweed, Elodea canadensis; leaves occur in whorls of 3 around the stem (or opposite), without tubers.
Expanding Monitoring and Reporting

- Increased number of trained monitors
- Easy access reporting and verification via New Invaders Watch Program and River to River CWMA
Increased Access to Distribution Information
Rapid Response

• Establish Response Team

• Obtain Permits/Permissions

• Increase capacity to respond to invasion (financially and legally)
Establish Response Team

- Memorandum Obligation Document
- Tiered level of response
Obtain Permits/Permission

- Local
- Regional
- State
- Federal
Increased Capacity

- Rapid communication network in place
- Team member tasks clearly outlined in MOD
- Herbicide stockpile
Current Partners

• Chicago Wilderness Aquatics Task Force (CW ATF)
• Lake County Health Department: Lakes Management Unit
• Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG)
• Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP)
• Illinois EPA
• Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)
• Integrated Lakes Management (ILM)
• Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
• Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG)
• Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Invasive Species Campaign
• USDA -APHIS
Thank you!

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