

HYDRILLA ALERT 9-9-11

In a message dated 9/9/2011 4:08:26 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, sakishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us writes:
As you may have heard, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillatum*) has been found in the Cayuga Inlet in the City of Ithaca. This is a very highly invasive aquatic plant that was first found in New York State in 2008, but has not been seen in any other waterbody north of Orange County and Long Island. A Task Force has been established, comprised of local stakeholders, government agencies, academic researchers, and other interested parties, to develop an early detection/rapid response plan, including delineating the infestation, evaluating management alternatives, and implementing an action plan, in an attempt to eradicate this infestation. Survey work by Bob Johnson from Cornell indicates that the infestation may be limited to the Inlet- thus far found in dense patches and individual rooted fragments, mostly south of the Allen Treman Marine State Park.

However, volunteer stewards and Task Force members have reported that boat traffic coming out of the Inlet via several marinas and launches over the Labor Day weekend was transporting hydrilla onto props and trailers. This finding has elevated the discussion about controlling boat traffic within this area, and the need for long-term stewardship activities to intercept plants, but also provides a stark reminder that this highly invasive plant may be threatening other nearby lakes, particularly those with active boat launches.

The Task Force will be working with the agencies responsible for some of these launches to provide inspections, stewards and surveillance. However, additional assistance, particularly "eyes on the ground" familiar with aquatic plant communities in these lakes, will help to determine if hydrilla has been transported into any susceptible lakes. Any assistance you might be willing to provide would be greatly appreciated, particularly in providing surveillance of public and private launches at your lake (or even other nearby sites).

Attached is a 'Hydrilla Tip Sheet' to help distinguish the difference between hydrilla, Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*), and common waterweed (*Elodea*), a native plant that is found in most lakes in the area. The key distinctions are the number of leaflets in the whorl of leaves (more than 3), a serrated (toothed) leaf edge that should be visible to the naked eye, and especially a tuber (shaped like a very small potato) attached to the root. If you see any plant that looks like hydrilla, particularly if you look around any boat launching sites or stream inlets, please send me a digital photograph or live specimen on the plant. Digital photos should be close enough to detect any serrated leaf edges, leaflet whorls, and any tuber formation. Any live specimen should be no more than one or two plants sent in a baggie with a moist (not dripping wet) paper towel- the plant should not be wrapped in the towel (which is used to provide moisture in the bag)- and sent in an envelope to the address listed below. Make sure you include the name of the lake, the location where it was found, and contact information so I can provide with plant identification information.

Many thanks for your assistance, and please contact me if you have questions or need any additional information.

Scott

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Key Differences Between Hydrilla, Brazilian Elodea, and Common Waterweed

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Leaf Edge:	Serrated
Serration:	Hook-like
Visible?	Naked eye
Whorls:	4-7 leaflets (4-5)
Width:	Narrow
Length:	up to 5/8"
Spacing:	1/8"-2"
Turions?:	Yes- 1/4" diameter
Location:	leaf axils in early fall
Tubers?:	Yes- 1/2" diameter
Location:	1-3" deep in sediment
Rhizomes:	whitish
Status in NYS:	exotic, invasive



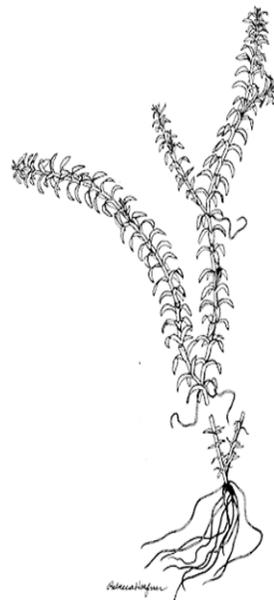
Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*)

Leaf Edge:	Very finely serrated
Serration:	Saw-like
Visible?	Only with hand lens
Whorls:	4-5 leaflets
Width:	Broad
Length:	up to 1.5"
Spacing:	<1/2"
Turions?:	No
Tubers?:	No
Rhizomes:	not apparent
Status in NYS:	exotic, invasive



Common waterweed (*Elodea sp.*)

Leaf Edge:	Smooth
Serration:	None
Whorls:	3-5 leaflets (usually 3)
Width:	0.5-1"
Length:	Highly variable
Spacing:	usually 1/2"-2"
Turions?:	No
Tubers?:	No
Rhizomes:	not apparent
Status in NYS:	native



Key Differences Between Hydrilla, Brazilian Elodea, and Common Waterweed

Hydrilla in Cayuga Inlet:

