

Alaska's Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plants

The following freshwater, aquatic invasive plants have been quarantined by the State of Alaska; it is prohibited to import, transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or distribute plants or plant parts, or intentionally transplant any of these species. Historically, these species have been popular as aquarium plants. However, if they become established in natural areas, these plants can greatly impact freshwater resources by degrading fish habitat, displacing native flora and fauna, reducing recreation of boats and float planes, and reducing waterfront property values.

While these species might still be an option from your out-of-state or online supplier, these species are prohibited in Alaska. Avoid ordering these plants, and dispose of plants in a manner that renders them nonliving and nonviable.

Any intentional movement or educational use of these quarantined species must be permitted through the Division of Agriculture. Contact the Division of Agriculture inspections staff or invasive plant coordinator if you suspect you may have one of these species, need assistance in proper identification, or need more information for disposal.

For more information on quarantined aquatic plants in Alaska visit:
<http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/aquatics.html>

State of Alaska; Division of Agriculture
Inspection Staff: 907-761-3853
Invasives Coordinator: 907-745-8721

Elodea spp.

(E. canadensis, E. nuttallii and hybrids)

Common waterweed

Leaf: Whorls of 3, smooth leaf edge, leaf vein is smooth underneath 6-12 mm long.

Stem: Long, slender, generally branched. Lighter green than the leaves, grows in a tangled mass.

Root: Fibrous silky white root that sprout from nodes along the stem.

Propagation: Fragmentation; each broken piece can create a new plant.

Elodea is the only submersed freshwater aquatic invasive plant found in Alaska.

It is difficult to visually determine the difference between *E. canadensis* and *E. nuttallii* and the hybrid of the two. However, the identifying characteristics stated above are unique to all *Elodea* species.

***May be confused with native *Callitriche hermaphroditica* (Northern water starwort) or *Chara* spp. (muskgrass).**



Elodea nuttallii



Elodea canadensis



Flowers are very small, and rarely observed in Alaska

Egeria densa

Anarchis, Elodea

Leaf: Whorls of 4. Densely packed. Bright to dark green, 2-4 cm long and 2-5 mm wide.

Stem: Up to 3 m long. Leaves along entire stem.

Root: Roots are fibrous and can produce adventitious roots along the stem.

Propagation: Stem fragments and by collapsed stems that sprout roots.

***Distinguished by its robust leaves and bushy growth habit.**



Hydrilla verticillata

Water thyme, Florida elodea, Wasserquirl, Indian star-vine

Leaf: Whorls of 3-10 (5 is the most common). 1-5 mm wide and 6-20 mm long. Reddish midribs with small visible spines. Toothed edge.

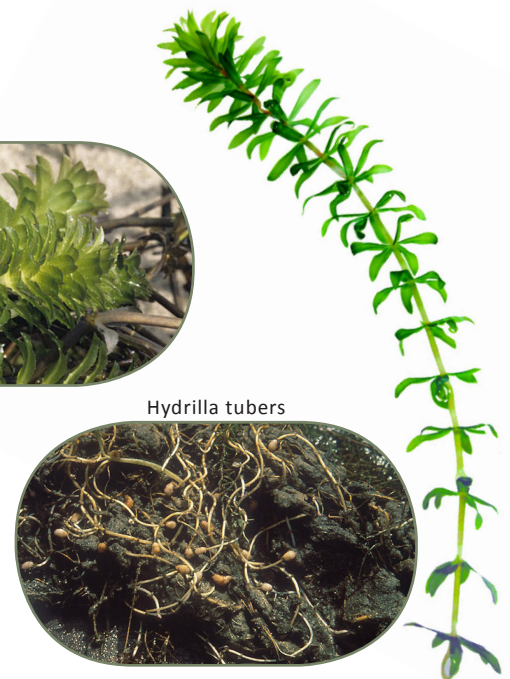
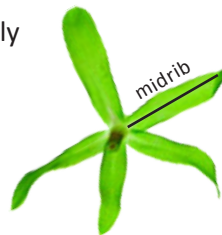
Stem: Long and branched up to 8 m long.

Root: Fibrous rhizomes and above ground stolons. Peanut-size tubers on root in sediment.

Propagation: Fragmentation, tubers, seed (rarely), and scaly overwintering buds.

Hydrilla is listed as a federally noxious plant.

***Distinguished by its small tubers on the roots, spiny leaf edges, and a reddish midrib on leaves.**



Myriophyllum spicatum L.

Eurasian watermilfoil

Leaf: Submersed leaves are square at the tip, 2-4 cm long, feather-like and in whorls of 4 around stem. Emergent leaves are 1-3 mm long and located on the flower spikes.

Stem: Long, often abundantly branched, form a reddish or olive green mat in summer.

Root: Many fibrous roots from the plant base. Roots can develop from plant fragments.

Propagation: Plant fragments and rhizomes. Sprouting from seed is rare.

***May be confused with native Northern milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), which has fewer than 14 leaflet pairs per leaf and does not collapse when out of water.**

