PLANTS

BRAZILIAN WATERWEED

Egeria densa
Origin: South America

Brazilian waterweed is a submerged aquatic plant with bright green stems and leaves and a very leafy appearance. Leaves are linear, up to 2.5 cm long and ½ cm wide with finely toothed margins, and grow in whorls of four to eight leaves. Stems are cylindrical and grow until they reach the water surface, where they can form dense mats. White, three-petaled flowers grow just above the water surface to 2 cm in diameter. Only male plants are found in the U.S.; these reproduce via stolons and fragmentation.

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

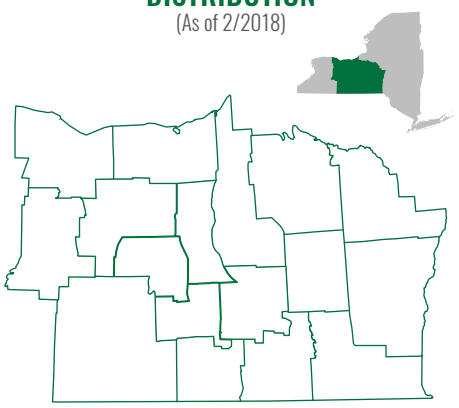
High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Physical
Biocontrol
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



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HABITAT

Brazilian waterweed inhabits slow-flowing freshwaters. This species is tolerant of a wide range of temperatures and light levels, and can occur as deep as 7 m.

THREAT

Dense populations of Brazilian waterweed can disrupt water flow, trap sediment, and alter water quality, as well as reduce the abundance and diversity of native vegetation. Severe infestations may impair recreational uses of a water body including boating, fishing, and swimming.

MANAGEMENT

Prevention is the best management practice to ensure that this species remains unintroduced. Education of the public about practices such as clean, drain, and dry, as well as timely reporting of sightings, can keep this invasive at bay. Brazilian waterweed may be physically removed only if extreme care is taken to remove fragments from the water. Chemical control can reduce infestations, although it is not species-specific and may damage other beneficial aquatic plants in the area. Triploid Grass Carp (*Cteonpharyngodon idella*) may also be used to control Brazilian waterweed infestations. However, the stocking of Grass Carp requires a permit.

REFERENCE - Egeria densa USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database, Gainesville, FL, and NOAA Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System, Ann Arbor, MI. https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/greatlakes/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=10& Potential=Y&Type=2&HUCNumber
Revision Date: 1/28/2015

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