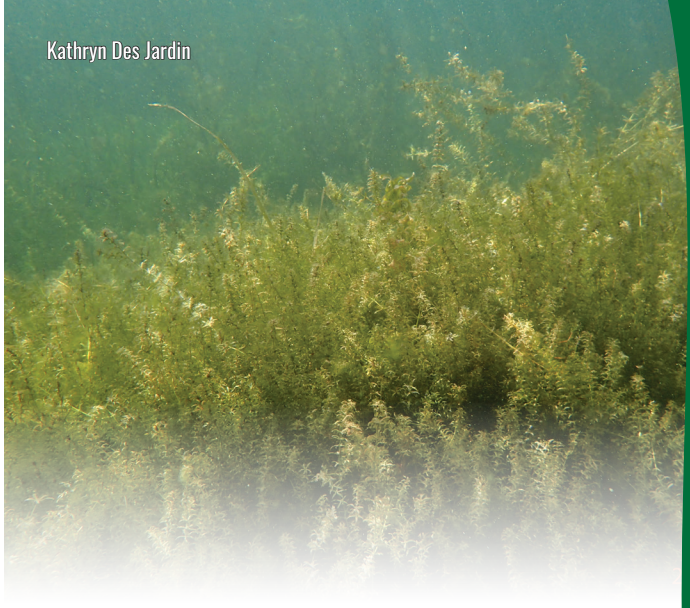


PLANTS

HYDRILLA

Hydrilla verticillata
Origin: Asia

Hydrilla is a submerged herbaceous perennial plant with visibly serrated leaves that grow in whorls of three to eight, often five. The undersides of Hydrilla leaves can be spiny and the midrib of each leaf is often reddish. Hydrilla can spread by seeds, tubers (which resemble tiny bulbs in the sediment), plant fragments, and turions (overwintering buds located on the stems). This invasive plant looks similar to American or Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), a common native and aquarium aquatic plant, which has smooth leaves usually arranged in whorls of three and no tubers or turions.

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

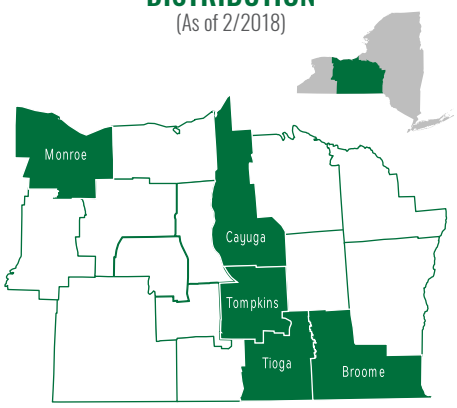
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Mechanical
Physical
Biocontrol
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



HABITAT

Hydrilla inhabits freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, impoundments, and canals. Hydrilla is shade-tolerant and can thrive in a wide range of nutrient conditions and depths.

THREAT

Hydrilla spreads quickly, and once established, forms dense stands that crowd out native species and disrupt aquatic habitats. Hydrilla can also clog waterways and restrict water flow, which may damage water control structures and inhibit recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing.

MANAGEMENT

Several techniques have been used to manage Hydrilla. Mechanical removal can be effective only if all parts of the plant are removed including the long-lasting tubers. Herbicides and physical barriers, such as benthic mats, are also effective. Biological agents can also be a successful management strategy, although they are not widely used in NY. The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As this species is most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body.

REFERENCE - U.S. Geological Survey. [2017]. Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database. Gainesville, Florida. Accessed [6/7/2017].

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