



Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

Brazilian elodea *Egeria densa*

September 30-October 6, 2013

Member of the Least Wanted

Origin: Native to South America

Also known as: Brazilian water-weed, Anacharis

Current Distribution: Reports in Illinois and Indiana. Mostly affecting the southern states and the US west coast. Not currently reported in Michigan.

Means of Introduction: Originally imported for the aquarium trade. Fragments attached to boats or waterfowl can infest new locations.

Description: Bright green leaves in whorls of 4-6. Flowers are white and have 3 pedals that are held above the water on a slender stem.

Impacts: Once established, Brazilian elodea can form dense mats resulting in the crowding out of native plants and can interfere with recreational activities such as boating and swimming.

Habitat: Found in all water types including lakes, rivers and streams.

Similar species: Brazilian elodea looks a lot like the native plant waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*). However Brazilian elodea is larger and more robust compared to the native waterweed. Furthermore, the native waterweed has whorls of three. The picture on the right shows the difference between the invasive Brazilian elodea (to the right of the dime) and the smaller native waterweed (upper left of dime). →



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Photo: Ann Murray, University of Florida, Bugwood.org



Photo: Washington Department of Ecology

For more information on Brazilian elodea, go to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network's website: www.misin.msu.edu

For information on Michigan's AIS program, go to DEQ's website: www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives