

Invasive Species Alert

Hydrilla

(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Submerged aquatic plant with generally green leaves
- Leaves are whorled in group of 4-8
- Leaf midvein is reddish with a row of spines giving it a rough texture
- Very slender stems that can grow up to 30 feet long
- Stems branch out considerably near water surface
- White 3-petaled flowers (may be reddish or brown on male plants)
- Easily confused with Brazilian elodea (another invasive) – hydrilla leaves are rough and have visible saw-toothed margins



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft.,
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Habitat: Hydrilla can grow in springs, lakes, ditches, marshes, or rivers. It can tolerate a variety of nutrient conditions and has the ability to grow in low light conditions, giving it an advantage over native species.



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Native Range: Central Africa

U.S. Distribution: Hydrilla has been recorded throughout the southern U.S. from California to Delaware.

Local Concern: Hydrilla is a threat to native aquatic ecosystems. Dense mats shade out native aquatic vegetation and alter the ecology of the water body. Invasion also interferes with recreational activities like boating and fishing.

Other Common Names: Florida elodea, Wasserquirl, Indian star-vine, water thyme

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