

Aquatic Invasive Species Order

Water Soldier, *Stratiotes aloides*



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Proposed Action

- Issue official Order to list water soldier as a prohibited species
- Authority: Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) Part 413, Sec. 41302
- Agriculture & Rural Development Commission has authority for plants & insects
- NREPA identifies the process for listing



Listing Process

1. Determine if species meets certain criteria
2. Consultation between Commission of Agriculture & Rural Development and DNR
3. Post copy of proposed Order on MDARD web site at least 30 days before issuing the Order
4. Submit copy of proposed Order to:
 - The Legislature; and,
 - standing committees with responsibilities for agricultural issues, environmental issues and natural resources issues



Criteria for Prohibited Species

- Not native to Michigan
- If naturalized, not widely distributed in state
- Plus one or more of the following:
 - Potential to harm human health, agricultural or silvicultural resources
 - Effective management or control techniques are not available



Regional Commitment

2013 Council of Great Lakes Governors & Premiers

- AIS Task Force
- Agreed to a “least wanted species” list

Agreement

- Prevent introduction and spread of AIS
- Foster mutual aid for responses
- Prohibit 16 species across GLs Basins



Least Wanted List

<u>Fish</u>	<u>Aquatic invertebrates</u>	<u>Plants</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bighead carp* • Silver carp* • Grass carp* • Black carp* • Northern snakehead* • Stone moroko • Zander • Wels catfish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killer shrimp • Yabby (crayfish) • Golden mussel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrilla* • Brazilian elodea* • Water soldier • European water chestnut* • Parrot feather*

- * denotes species is currently listed under Part 413 as Prohibited
- *7 species not currently listed*



Water Soldier

- Native to Europe/NW Asia
- Detected in the Trent River, Ontario in 2008
- Forms dense mats that can hinder recreational activities
- Has sharp, serrated leaves that can cut through skin





Water Soldier

- Ontario introduction – likely came from the UK
- Water soldier is used as a water garden plant in the UK
- This species is not sold in trade in Michigan or elsewhere in the U.S.





Water Soldier Regulations

- Alabama: water-aloë Class C noxious weed
- Florida: water-aloë, soldier plant.
Prohibited aquatic plant, Class 1





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Review of Listing Process

- Sept 17 - DNR & MDARD presentation to Agriculture & Rural Development Commission
- Oct 9 - subsequent presentation to Natural Resources Commission
- Dec. 17 announcement of proposed listing
- Jan 21 – decision on Order



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Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Proposes Addition of Water Soldier to State's Prohibited Plant List

Agency: Agriculture and Rural Development

For Immediate Release: December 17, 2014
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Lansing – As part of Governor Rick Snyder's commitment to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species into the Great Lakes, water soldier was identified as one of the 16 "Least Wanted Species" aquatic invasive species at the 2013 meeting of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and Canadian Premiers. Prevention of new invasive species and stopping the spread of existing invasive species are considered vital for limiting the impacts on Michigan's ecology, economy, and natural resources.

The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development may soon add water soldier to the state's list of prohibited aquatic plant species. The Commission will be reviewing an official order at its January 21 meeting.

Michigan has a Prohibited and Restricted Species statute preventing the possession of listed invasive species. The list already includes most of the species on the "Least Wanted" list. One exception is a plant commonly known as water soldier, which has recently been found invading the Trent-Severn waterway in Ontario.

Water soldier is an invasive aquatic plant native to Europe and northwest Asia. This species forms dense mats of floating vegetation which can hinder recreational activities such as boating, fishing and swimming. The sharp serrated edges of water soldier leaves can cut swimmers and people who handle the plant. In addition, the dense floating mats can crowd out native vegetation and have potential to alter water chemistry which may have adverse effects on the environment. Since water soldier only occurs at one location in North America, prohibiting the sale of this plant will help assure it does not become established in Michigan.

The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for adding plant and insect species to the official prohibited and restricted species list, in consultation with the Natural Resources



Questions?

