

# HYDRILLA

*Hydrilla verticillata*  
Hydrocharitaceae, the waterweed family

Category: EDRR

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Hydrilla is considered to be the most problematic aquatic plant in the United States.
- It is extremely aggressive and tolerates low light conditions allowing it to outcompete and displace native species.
- The plant is capable of interfering with irrigation projects, recreation, and navigation.

### Description

- Submerged aquatic perennial.
- Stems are slender and branched.
- Leaves are pointed in whorls of 4-8 (most often 5), with sharply toothed margins containing one or more "teeth" on the underside of leaf midrib.
- Flowers are small and white in color.
- Scaly winter bud (turions) are produced at leaf axils.
- Tubers are produced from roots.

### Introduction and Movement

- Hydrilla is native to Africa, Australia, and parts of Asia and was introduced through the release of aquaria content.
- It inhabits canals, rivers, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs and is easily dispersed through plant fragmentation and the production of reproductive structures called turions and tubers.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Hydrilla and report any sightings.
- Always research aquarium plants before purchasing.
- Never release aquarium contents or water garden species into surface waters and dispose of unwanted vegetation by burning, composting, or drying out completely.
- When boating, make sure to clean off any vegetative materials when leaving each waterbody, and before launching into another.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW**

**DON'T LET IT LOOSE & CLEAN > DRAIN > DRY**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/28170>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV](http://INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV)  
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

# HYDRILLA DISTRIBUTION MAP



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