

Aquatic Weed Watch List



Purple loosestrife



Hydrilla



Phragmites



Eurasian
water-milfoil



Giant salvinia



Curlyleaf
pondweed



Department of Agriculture Plant Protection and Weed Control

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Purple loosestrife*Lythrum salicaria*

An erect perennial herb, with a square, woody stem and opposite lance-shaped leaves. It can grow from four to ten feet high with many stems growing from a single rootstock. It produces a showy display of pinkish-purple flower spikes. Flowers have five to seven petals which, when viewed up close, appear to be wrinkled.

Hydrilla*Hydrilla verticillata*

Hydrilla's small leaves are strap-like and pointed. They grow in whorls of four to eight around the stem. The leaf margins are distinctly saw-toothed. Hydrilla often has one or more sharp teeth along the length of the leaf mid-rib. Produces tiny white flowers on long stalks. It also produces 1/4 inch shoots at the leaf axils and potato-like tubers attached to the roots in the mud.

Phragmites*Phragmites australis*

A very tall grass, also called common reed, that grows along rivers, lakes or other water bodies. It can grow to more than 15 feet in height and forms dense stands that are very difficult to walk through. The seed heads look like fluffy tufts at the tops of the stems. It forms a dense network of roots and rhizomes which grow near the surface and can often be seen.

Eurasian water-millfoil*Myriophyllum spicatum*

An emergent, herbaceous aquatic plant, its stems grow to the water surface and frequently form dense mats. Stems are long, branching and become leafless toward the base. The leaves are finely divided and occur in whorls of three or four along the stem. These leaflets give it a feathery appearance that is a distinguishing feature of the plant.

Giant salvinia*Salvinia molesta*

A floating member of the fern family, it does not root into the ground but rather dangles its roots in the water. Of its three leaves, one is usually below the water's surface. As the plant grows, it forms long chains of tightly grouped leaves. The surfaces of the leaves are covered in rows of tiny hairs that, when examined closely, look like egg beaters.

Curlyleaf pondweed*Potamogeton crispus*

The leaves are reddish-green, oblong and about 3 inches long, with distinct wavy edges that are finely toothed. The stem of the plant is flat, reddish-brown and grows from 1 to 3 feet long. It looks reddish-brown while it is in the water but green when pulled out. Similar plants do not have tooth edged leaves.

If you suspect you have found one of these plants:

1. Photograph the plant at the site.
2. Collect a specimen, including roots if possible, and press between sheets of newspaper.
3. Record the location, with a GPS if possible, and landmarks along with the legal description.
4. Describe the type of land use (cropland, road ditch, forest, etc.).
5. Describe the location (rocky, wet, dry, sandy).
6. Contact the State Weeds Specialist at the Department of Agriculture.

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