

# HYDRILLA

## *Hydrilla verticillata*

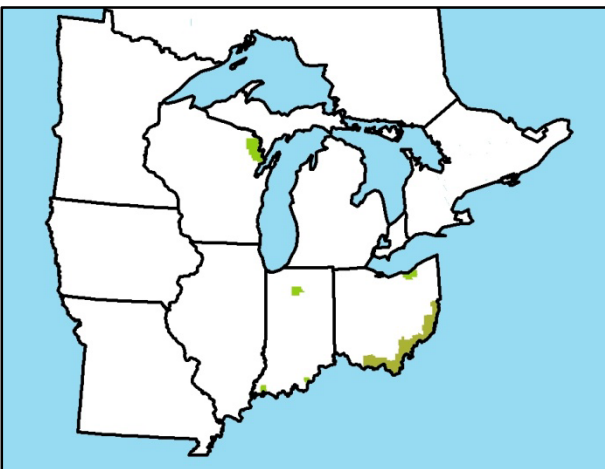


**Description:** Hydrilla is a rooted, submersed perennial herb. Its long, slender, branching stems can reach 25 feet long. Leaves form in whorls of 3-10 around stems in 0.13-2 inch increments. The green leaves are 0.75 inches long and 0.25 inches wide. Leaf margins are spiny, making the plant rough to touch. The leaf's midrib is often spiny on the underside and reddish when new. Male and female flowers are both tiny and form on separate plants. Male flowers are green and resemble inverted bells. Female flowers are white, 6-petaled, and have long, threadlike stalks. Fruit is a narrow cylinder, 0.2-0.6 inches long, either smooth or with irregular spines. Seeds are tiny, smooth, brown ellipsoids.

**Ecological threat:** Hydrilla is easily spread by waterfowl and boats. It is able to reproduce through plant fragments, turions, and tubers. Turions and tubers can withstand freezing, drying, and herbicide, as well as ingestion and regurgitation by waterfowl, making hydrilla difficult to control. It invades lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, and ditches. Infestations create breeding areas for mosquitoes, impact fish and wildlife, and adversely affect water intake and delivery systems.



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Current Midwest Distribution, including Ontario

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Known        | <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locally Abundant | <input type="checkbox"/> Widespread |

**Native Range:** Southeastern Asia, Africa

**Current North American Range:** Hydrilla is found in the midwestern, eastern, southern, and western U.S. It is considered a Federal noxious weed.

Hydrilla is **prohibited** in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

For up-to-date **management options**, see <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AG/AG37000.pdf>.

Photo credits: Left - Nancy Tessmer; Right - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**Early detection and rapid response can help  
stop the spread!**