

Plant: Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Identification: Hydrilla is a submersed perennial plant rooted in the bed of the waterbody, and has long stems (up to 25 feet in length) that branch at the surface where growth becomes horizontal and forms dense mats. Small pointed, often serrated leaves are arranged around the stem in whorls of 3 to 10. Hydrilla propagate primarily by stem fragments, although buds and tubers also play an important role. New colonies can often be found near boat ramps as such stem pieces become rooted in the substrate (even very, very small fragments can become the start of new populations). Boat traffic through established populations can shatter and spread Hydrilla throughout the waterbody, similar to the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil. It can be found infesting freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, ditches and canals.

Defense: The best defense is to prevent this plant from further spreading. Cleaning watercraft thoroughly can prevent spreading to new bodies of water. If you see Hydrilla, do not drive through it with a power boat, as the motor can chop it up and multiply it through fragmentation. Mechanical is effective, but difficult. You can pull it out, but have to remove the tuber under the surface of the ground, and remove the entire plant from the water. There are chemical treatments, but due to it being in the water please contact your local county weed superintendent to form a management plan.

**Always read and understand the label and restrictions of any pesticide you are using.
The label IS the law.**

