

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: BRAZILIAN ELODEA

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Egeria densa*

FAMILY: *Hydrocharitaceae*

ORIGIN: South America

US INTRODUCTION: Unknown

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

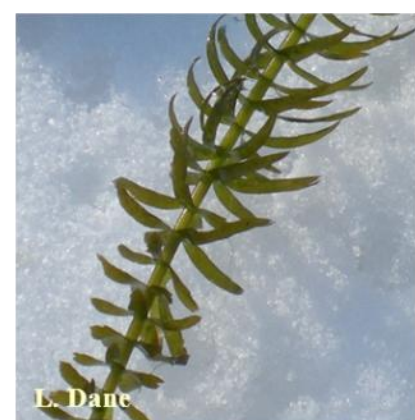
- Vegetative spread
- Disposal from aquarium and water gardens
- Transport on watercraft
- Distribution and use for aquarium
- Water

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Aquatic submersed, perennial herb, very bushy, generally rooted in depths up to 20 feet or drifting; lacks rhizomes or tubers
- Stem single or branched; grows to water surface forming dense mats (profuse branching)
- Leaves bright green, 0.8 - 1.2 inches long, up to ¼ inch broad, usually in whorls of 4 to 6 (8) in short intervals along stem, leaf edges minutely toothed
- Reproduction from vegetative growth; specialized areas along stem (double nodes, every 6 - 12 whorls) produce new plants if fragmented from stem. Seeds and female flowers have never been reported from populations in the United States
- Threatens still and flowing freshwater aquatic communities



Plant



Leaves



Plant from population that over-wintered in Lake County, Illinois

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES: Common Waterweed, *Elodea canadensis* can be mistaken for *Egeria densa*. Elodea, common waterweed, leaves occur in whorls of 3 around the stem (or opposite), and does not have tubers.

Brazilian waterweed, has leaves longer than common waterweed, in whorls of 4 - 6 (8), bushier in appearance, without tubers.

In drawing left, invasive hydrilla is also shown.

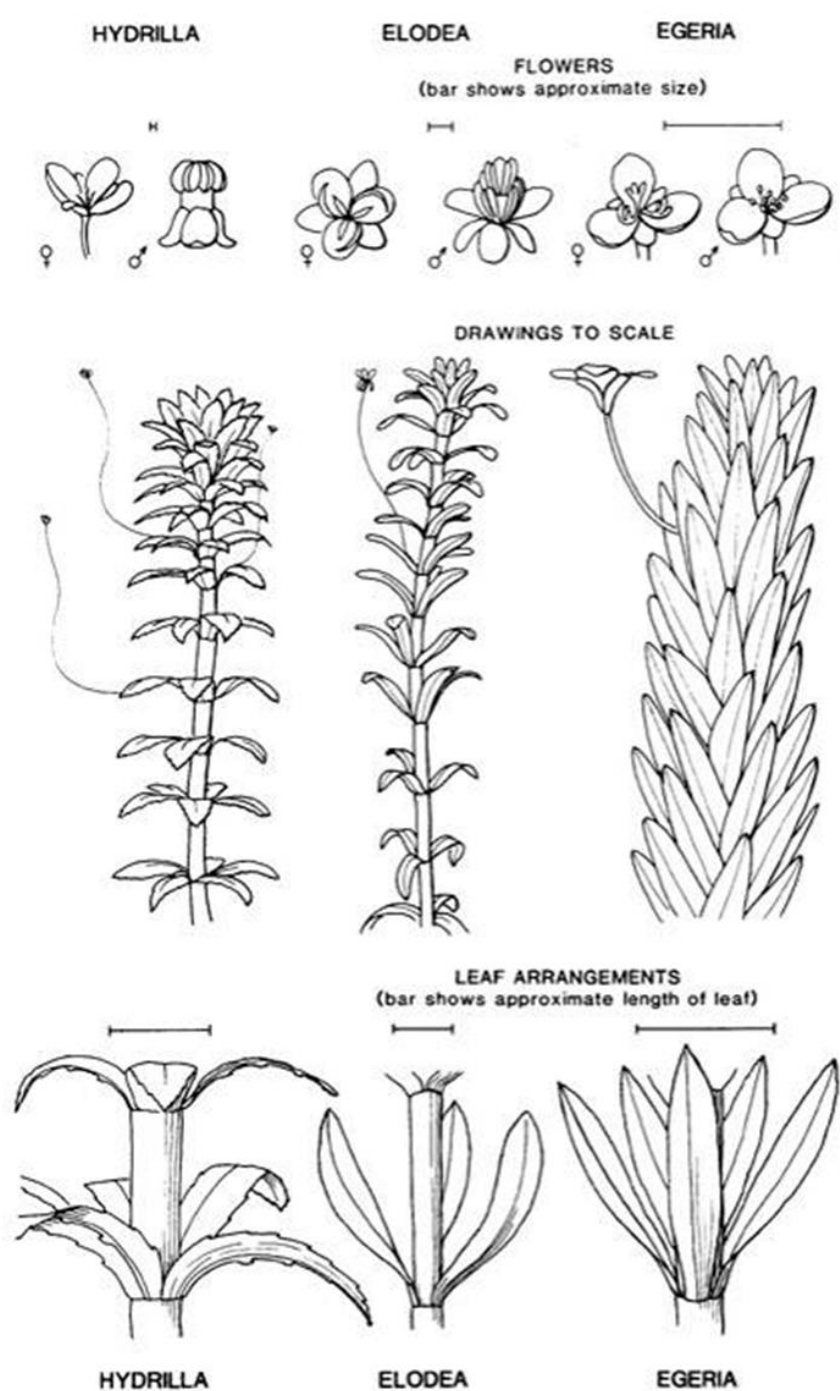


Common Waterweed

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Department of Ecology, State of Washington.
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/egeria.html>

USDA Plants Database.
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=EGDE>



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