

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: HYDRILLA

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hydrilla verticillata*

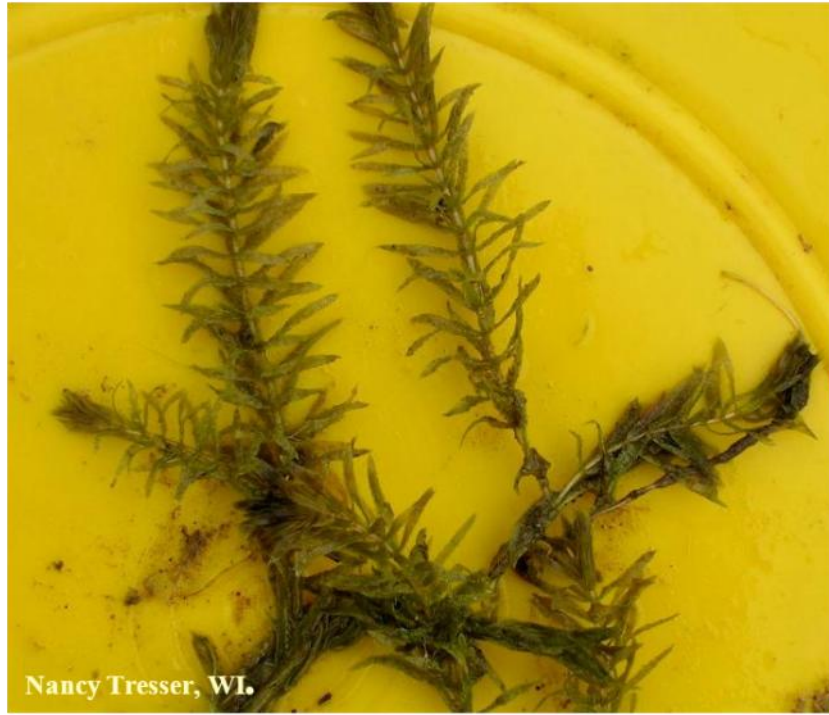
FAMILY: *Hydrocharitaceae*

ORIGIN: Southern India (female flowered plants) and Korea (male and female flowered plants)

US INTRODUCTION: Introduced in the 1960's as an ornamental garden plant

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Disposal from aquarium and water gardens
- Transport on watercraft
- Water



Nancy Tresser, WI.

Plant



Hydrilla tangled in a boat motor

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Aquatic, herbaceous, submersed, perennial rooted in saturated soil, can grow in water a few inches deep to 20 feet deep
- Stem submersed, slender and branching profusely across the water surface
- Leaves green, 0.6 inches long, pointed tips, arranged in whorls of 3 to 10 joined directly to stem; whorls in long increments, 1/8 to 2 inches apart. Leaf edges distinctly saw-toothed; plant noticeably rough when pulled through the hand
- Reproduces vegetatively, mainly by regrowth of stem fragments, but also by buds at leaf nodes (turions, dark green, 1/4 inch round) and from 1/2 inch x 1/2 inch potato-like tubers (roots) below ground
- Threatens freshwater aquatic communities, including: springs, lakes, marshes, ditches, streams and rivers



S. Abella

Plant with tubers



Tim Murphy, University of Georgia UGA3694013

Tubers

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

Hydrilla has leaves in whorls of 3 - 8 with tiny spines along the leaf margins. The midrib of each leaf is often reddish. Hydrilla produces tubers (small potato-like structures).

In drawing left, invasive *Ergeria* is also shown.



common waterweed

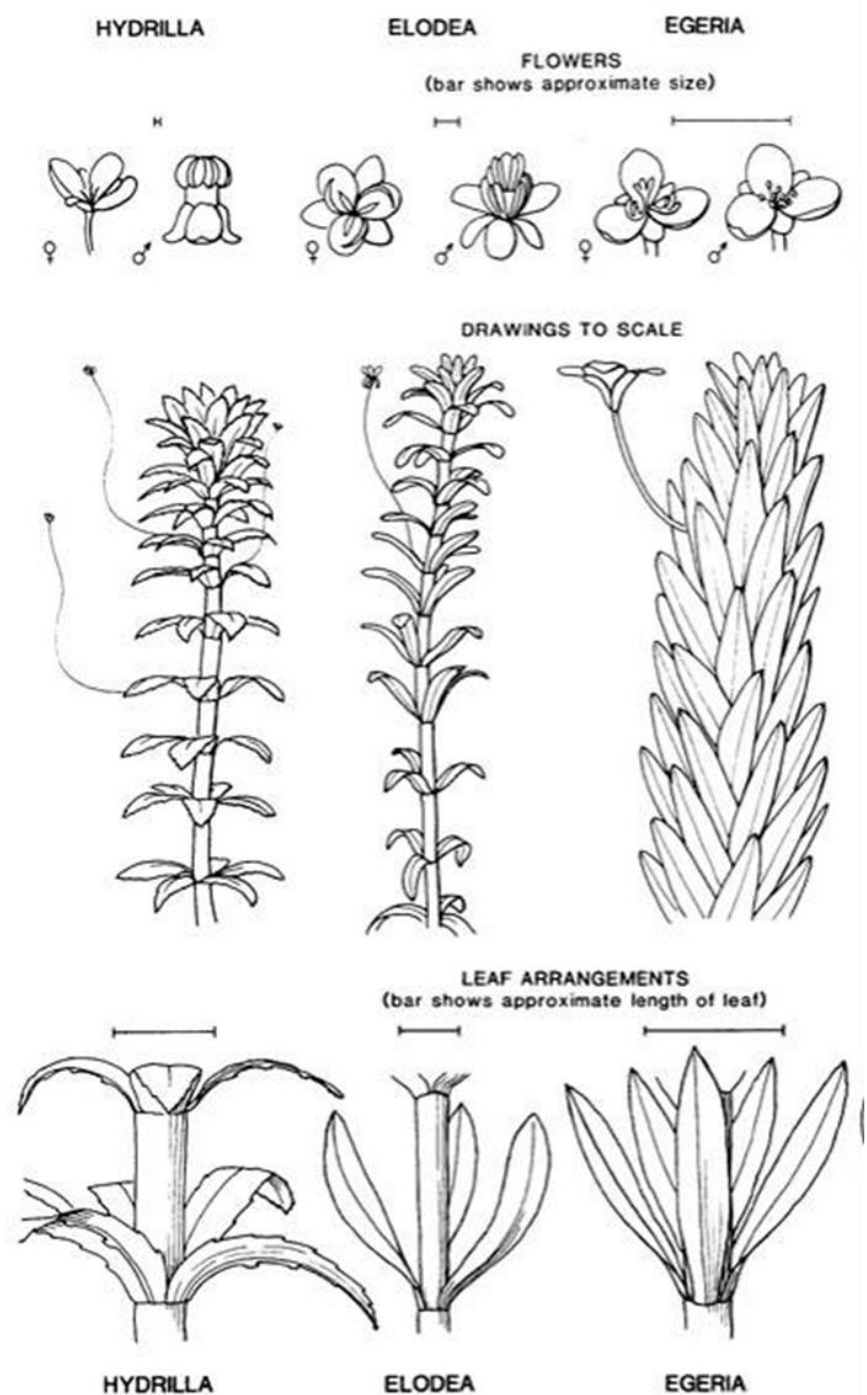
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Center for Aquatic Invasive Plants, University of Florida.
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/183>

USDA National Agricultural Library.
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/hydrilla.shtml>

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.
http://www.protectyourwaters.net/hitchhikers/plants_hydrilla.php

Cornell University, and New York Sea Grant, hydrilla brochure.
<http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/ais/pdfs/Hydrilla-brochure030912.pdf>



<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/seagrantsunysb.edu/ais/pdfs/Hydrilla-brochure030912.pdf>

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