For non-motorized craft such as rowing shells, canoes, kayaks, and sailboards:

- Open airlocks on shells or air bladders on kayaks after use and allow to dry thoroughly, as plant fragments can survive moist conditions for many days

Around docks, launch sites, and other areas:

- Remove Hydrilla that accumulates around docks, launch ramps, and swimming areas and dispose of in the trash or on dry land where it cannot wash back into the waterbody

Control

- Power cutters mow Hydrilla below the water surface and gather it to be disposed of. Harvesting is expensive, and needs to be done several times per season. Harvesting cannot capture every single fragment of cut Hydrilla, so currents may carry fragments to uninfested areas.
- Suction harvesting by divers using vacuum hoses can be used to remove Hydrilla from confined areas. However, if underground tubers are not removed, regrowth can take place during the next growing season. Also, fragments can escape and float away to root and start new infestations.
- Chemicals are easier to apply but costly. Use of herbicides works best in small, enclosed bodies of water; use in flowing waters can be problematic. Herbicides can also have unintended impacts on native flora.
- The "best", most effective way to control Hydrilla is the prevention of new Hydrilla infestations by following the steps outlined above.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Visit the **New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse** and **Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program** website at:

http://NYIS.INFO

Click on "*Aquatic Plants"* under "*Priority Species"* and select "Hydrilla".

Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Sea Grant New York

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NOT WANTED!

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

A typical dense Hydrilla surface mat

Aliases: "Hydrilla" & "water thyme"

Known NY hideouts: Discovered in the western end of the Erie Canal/Tonawanda creek (Niagara Co.) late-September 2012; Cayuga Lake Inlet (Ithaca, Tompkins Co.) August 2011; Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island; Orange County.

[Not] Wanted For:

- Being one of the world's worst invasive aquatic plants
- Displacing native plants
- Causing fish kills
- Reducing weight and size of sportfish
- Eliminating waterfowl feeding areas and fish spawning sites
- Obstructing boating, swimming and fishing
- Reducing value of shorefront property

What Is Hydrilla?

Hydrilla is a submersed invasive perennial native to Asia and Africa. It roots in the bed of a waterbody and grows stems 25 - 30 feet long. The stems, which can grow up to an inch per day, branch horizontally at the surface and form thick, dense mats.

How Did Hydrilla Get Here?

Hydrilla is believed to have arrived in the US in the 1950s as an aquarium plant. It was likely released into the wild by people dumping aquaria or by contamination of water garden plants. It was probably transported as fragments from an infested waterbody elsewhere when a boat was launched.

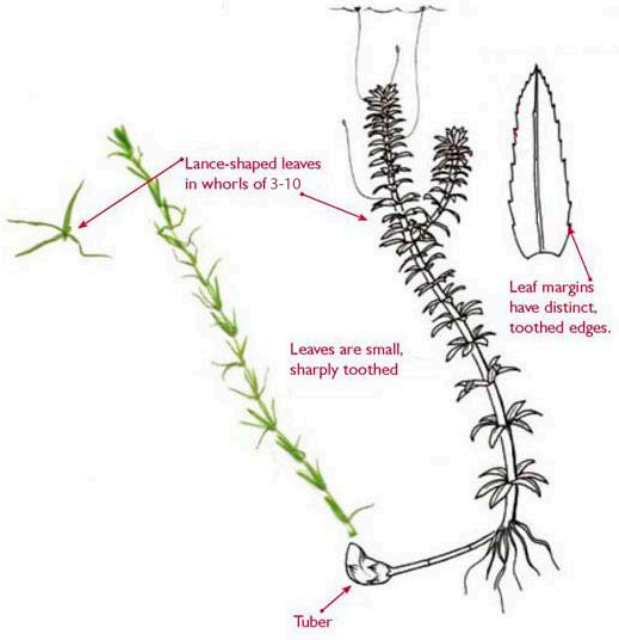
How Does Hydrilla Spread?

- Fragments can sprout roots and establish new populations
- Floating fragments are spread by currents
- Hydrilla stems are easily caught and transported on boats and boat trailers

What Does Hydrilla Look Like?

- Hydrilla has pointed, bright green leaves about 5/8" long
- Leaves grow in whorls of 3 - 10 along the stem, 5 being most common
- Leaves have small teeth on the edges
- Distinguishing characteristics are floating white flowers and small, white to yellowish, potato-like tubers attached to the roots

Close up of Hydrilla stem



Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (*Rev. Oct. 2012, CCE ISP*)

What Are Hydrilla's Impacts?

- Thick surface mats block sunlight and displace native plants below
- Stratification of water column and decreased dissolved oxygen levels can lead to fish kills
- Weight and size of sportfish can be reduced as open water and natural vegetation are lost
- Surface mats eliminate waterfowl feeding areas and fish spawning sites
- Thick mats of vegetation can obstruct boating, swimming and fishing
- Shorefront property value can be reduced, hurting homeowners and communities

The Risk

The risk of Hydrilla spreading to other waterbodies NY is significant. The boating public's help in preventing Hydrilla's spread by following clean boating habits is very important.

What Can I Do To Help?

For all types of watercraft:

- Be aware of and avoid passing through dense beds of aquatic vegetation
- Inspect boats, equipment, and trailers for any plant fragments after each use
- Remove and dispose of all plant matter, dirt, mud, etc. in trash cans or above the waterline on dry land where it won't get washed back into the lake
- Clean and dry equipment thoroughly before visiting other waterbodies