How to Get Involved with Invasive Species monitoring

1. Learn how to Identify an aquatic Invasive species in your area. Visit www.sleloinvasives.org
Be careful of "look-alikes".

2. Take a trip to your favorite body of water and look for the species of interest.

3. If possible-remove the species and properly dispose of it to prevent spread.

4. Form an annual neighborhood monitoring event, look for invasive species and remember always bring safety gear and equipment.

Safety First !

St. Lawrence - Eastern Lake Ontario
SLELO PRISM
Partnership For Regional Invasive Species Management

Things YOU can do to stop the spread

1. Clean your boat and trailer thoroughly when moving it to a different body of water.
2. Never release unwanted aquarium plants or fish into natural waterways .
3. Don't empty fishing bait into waterways .

Importance of Early Detection

- Reduces negative impacts (ecologically and economically).
- Improves response time, helps to slow the spread of invasives.
- Smaller infestations are easier to manage.

For more information or to get involved, contact the SLELO-PRISM office at (315) 387-3600
www.sleloinvasives.org

Surveying for

AQUATIC Invasive Species

Invasive Species are aggressive non—native organisms that prolifically invade natural areas.

Some species are a leading source of environmental and economic damage in the U.S.

St. Lawrence - Eastern Lake Ontario
SLELO PRISM
Partnership For Regional Invasive Species Management

We Need Your Help!

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticilata*) Identification

Leaves are whorled in bunches of 4 or more leaflets with distinctive serrated edges

Stems can grow up to 25 ft. in length and branch at the surface where growth become horizontal and form dense mats

—How to Distinguish Hydrilla From — Look-Alikes

4 or more leaves + <u>visible</u> leaf serrations + Tubers = Hydrilla

—Where to Look—

Slow moving fresh bodies of water & boat launches.

—How to Respond—

For small scale infestations: remove ENTIRE plant by hand and dispose of on shoreline. For *Medium to large Infestations*: Contact the SLELO -PRISM.

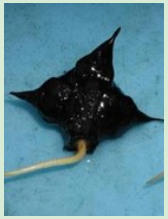
—Why monitor for Hydrilla—

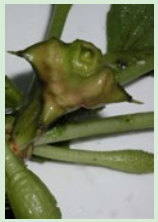
Hydrilla is a highly aggressive aquatic plant that can congest waterways interfering with navigation, recreation, ecology and aesthetics.

Water Chestnut (*Trapa nantans*)

Leaves float on surface and form a rosette, waxy, triangular in shape & toothed. **Petioles** have a bladder-like swelling filled with air and spongy tissue giving the plant buoyancy.

Flowers are slightly erect. inconspicuous, and located in the central area of the leafy rosette. They have four white petals, each 1/3 inch in length (bloom late July-frost)
Fruit/Nut are four-horned, pointy; green when immature, black when





—Where to Look—

Shallow freshwater habitats

—How to Respond—

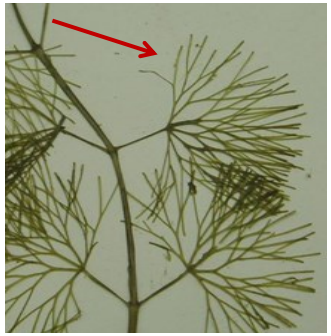
For small scale infestations-hand pull to remove. For large scale infestations-use mechanical harvester.

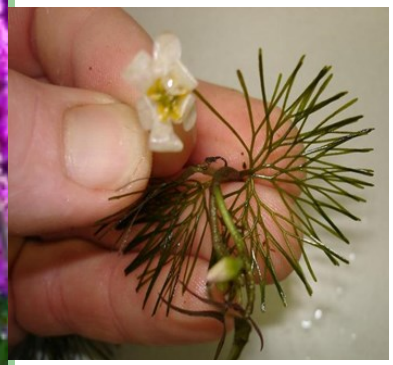
—Why monitor for Water Chestnut—

Water chestnut creates dense floating mats that can completely dominate surface waters rendering them unusable for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational activities. It can be detrimental to aquatic ecosystems may also reduce dissolved oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic organisms.

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) Identification

Leaves are submerged, opposite, feathery and "Y" shaped at the end (like the "Y" shape of a snakes tongue) .





Flowers have six white petals with a yellow

—Where to Look—

Found in a wide range of aquatic habitats; prefers slow moving waters, such as lakes and ponds but can be occasionally found in rivers.

—How to Respond—

Take a close up photograph and/or collect a sample and deliver to any SLELO–PRISM partner for positive I.D.

—Why monitor for fanwort—

Fanwort has the ability to overwinter and grow rapidly in the spring and summer outcompeting and dominating native vegetation. Populations can become extremely dense and alter native biological diversity.