FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Invasive Species Management
SLELO PRISM
C/O The Nature Conservancy
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Help find invasive species of interest in your region.
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Cover Photo:Aqua Sierra Water Quality Management,
identification photo: U.S. Geological Survey,
Bottom identification photo: Minnesota New York Sea Grant,
What are New Zealand Mud Snails?

New Zealand mud snails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) are native to the freshwaters of New Zealand. They were first discovered in North America in Idaho in 1987, and were likely introduced via the ballast water of oceanic ships.

They reproduce rapidly—a single snail can produce approximately 230 young annually. Populations of New Zealand mud snails are very tolerant of poor water quality and a wide range of temperatures.

New Zealand mud snails are currently found in New York State in Lake Ontario. They are easily spread on mats of algae and can pass through the guts of live fish.

They outcompete native snail species reducing biodiversity and can be a vector for parasites that infect native snails and fish. Dense populations of New Zealand mud snails alter nutrient flows and can clog underwater pipes for power and water facilities. Below is a photo showing a pipe that has been clogged with these snails.

Clean, Drain, Dry your watercraft and all fishing/sporting equipment before entering and leaving a body of water.

Control/Management:

Chemical: Research has shown that application of Green Clean PRO is an effective way to hinder and even eliminate New Zealand mud snail populations. Copper and carbon dioxide under pressure is also being investigated as a control method.

Biological Control: Parasites of New Zealand mud snail are also being researched as a control agent.

New Zealand Mud Snail Identification

Description: New Zealand mud snails have an elongated shell that consists of 5 to 6 whorls/twists. The shell is light to dark brown in color. The average length of New Zealand mud snails are usually 4-6 mm in introduced locations, but they may reach 12 mm in their native range.