

HYDRILLA

Hydrilla verticillata



Robert Vidéki Doronicum Kft



Cleveland Metro Parks Bugwood



Krzysztof Ziarnik, Kenraiz, CC BY-SA 4.0



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut

IDENTIFICATION

LIFE CYCLE:

Submerged aquatic perennial

LEAVES:

Leaves are pointed and bright green with a serrated edges. They are arranged in whorled groups of 3-8.

FLOWER:

Flowers are thread-like and tubular. Petals are translucent white to reddish in color. Hydrilla can be either monoecious (both male and flower flowers on the same plant) or dioecious (male and female flowers on different plants).

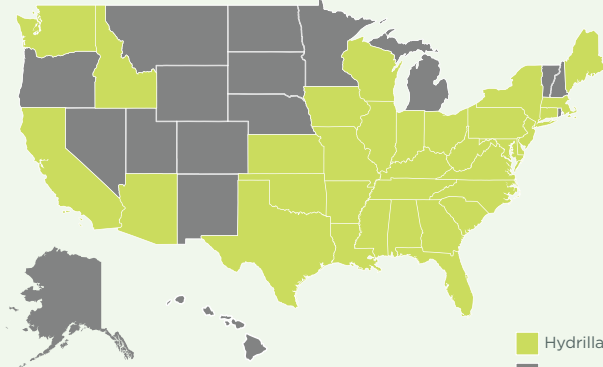
STEMS:

Stems are thin and long. When the stem nears the water surface it starts to grow horizontally forming a vegetative mat. Stems are easily fragmented, and most reproduction is done vegetatively.

For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit

<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

DISTRIBUTION Currently not found in Montana



Source:
USGS NAS, May 2023

Key
■ Hydrilla Lily Invasive
■ Hydrilla Not Present



Hydrilla Roots

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HABITAT:

Slow moving water and lakes at depths between 20 cm to 7 meters.

NATIVE TO:

Asia

PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

Introduced as an aquarium plant and is spread through improper disposal. Once introduced, it can reproduce through rhizomes, tubers, turions, or seeds. To prevent introduction, dispose of all aquarium plants in secured plastic bags and clean, drain, and dry all equipment that has touched water before entering another body of water.

IMPACTS:

Create dense, floating mats that outcompete native plants, disrupts recreation, alters habitat, and can clog water pipes. Decreases water quality by contributing to nutrient loading and sedimentation and decreasing oxygen.

IN MONTANA:

Not currently present in Montana.

Sources:
US Fish and Wildlife Service, UC Davis Weed Report, Montana Field Guide

NATIVE LOOKALIKES:

American waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)
Can be distinguished from hydrilla by its spotted leaves.



Hydrilla
Hydrilla verticillata

Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest



American Waterweed
Elodea canadensis

Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>
Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440



1075 South Ave West | Missoula, MT 59801 | 406-258-4200 | www.missoulaeduplace.org