

Hydrilla verticillata

Hydrilla

Other common names:
Florida elodea, waterthyme

Hydrocharitaceae, the waterweed family

Category: **EDRR**



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Leaves are pointed in whorls of 4-8 (most often 5)
- Leaf margins are saw-toothed with one or more “teeth” on the underside of leaf midrib
- Flowers are small and white in color
- Scaly winter buds (turions) produced at leaf axils
- Tubers are produced from roots

Background

- Native to Africa, Australia, and parts of Asia; introduced as an aquarium plant
- Considered the most problematic aquatic plant in the United States
- Inhabits ponds, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, canals, and ditches
- Extremely aggressive; interferes with irrigation projects, recreation, and navigation
- Spreads through fragmentation and reproductive structures (tubers and turions)

Photo Credit:

Vic Ramey, University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

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