Eichhornia crassipes

Water Hyacinth

Pontederiaceae, the pickerel-weed family
Category: EDRR

Diagnostic Characteristics

- Plant is free-floating
- Leaves are ovate, 4-8 inches in diameter with parallel veins and smooth margins
- Leaf stalks are spongy with bulbous inflated bases
- Produces thick flowering stalk up to 20 inches long
- Flowers are showy with 8-15 flowers on a single plant; flowers have 6 petals that are bluish in color (note central yellow blotch on top petal)

Background

- Native to South America
- Inhabits slow moving water such as ponds, lakes, rivers, and canals
- Reproduces primarily vegetatively and also by seeds
- Grows to nuisance levels in warmer temperate regions world-wide and thermally influenced water areas
- Popular ornamental pond plant

Photo Credit:

UGA5271035 - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

UGA5271036 - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

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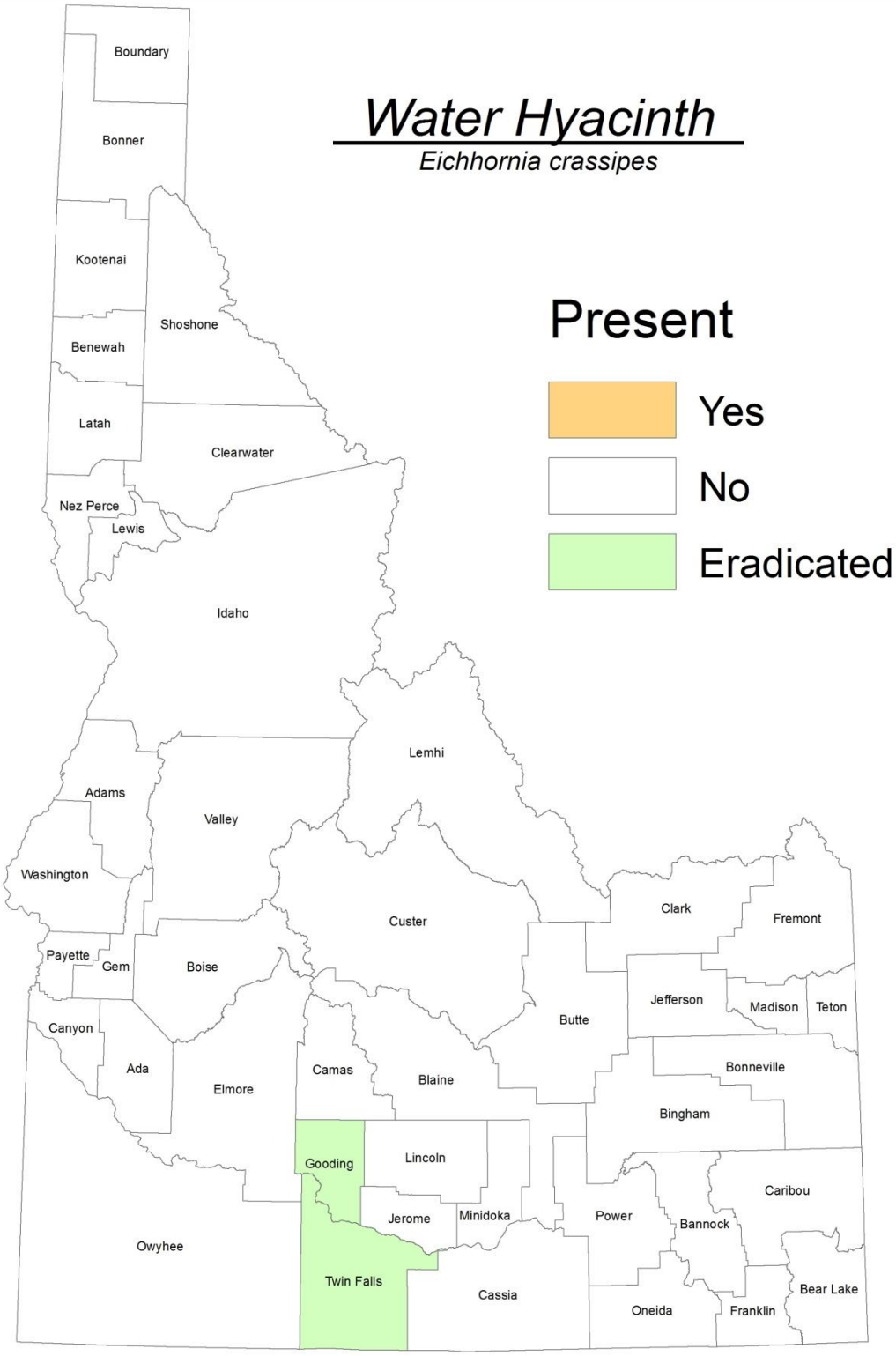
Water Hyacinth
Eichhornia crassipes
Present
Yes
No
Eradicated
Boundary
Bonner
Kootenai
Shoshone
Benewah
Latah
Clearwater
Nez Perce
Lewis
Idaho
Lemhi
Adams
Valley
Washington
Custer
Clark
Fremont
Payette
Gem
Boise
Jefferson
Madison
Teton
Butte
Canyon
Ada
Elmore
Camas
Blaine
Bonneville
Bingham
Gooding
Lincoln
Caribou
Jerome
Minidoka
Power
Bannock
Owyhee
Twin Falls
Cassia
Oneida
Franklin
Bear Lake