

INVASIVE SPECIES OVERVIEW

Invasive species: any organism that is non-native to the environment in question that has the ability to cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health.

How do invasive species spread?

- Hitchhikers on shipping material, recreation gear, work equipment, etc.
- Extreme weather events
- Wildlife dispersal
- Pet Trade
- Ornamental Plants

Threat to Aquatic Habitats:

- Outcompete native species
- Clog intake pipes and other infrastructure
- Inhibit recreation
- Alter water chemistry

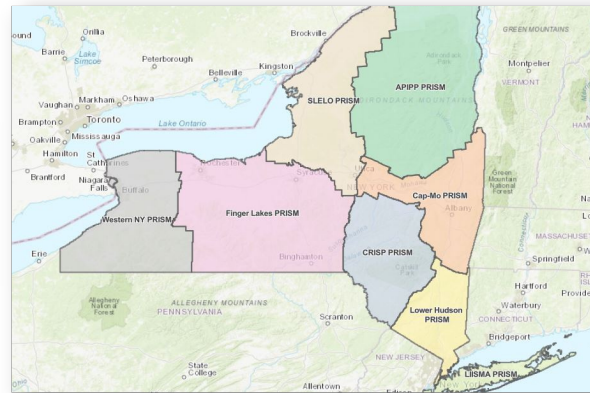
CLEAN DRAIN DRY



Capital Region PRISM

The CR-PRISM is a not-for-profit organization, that receives its funding from the NYS DEC. The CR-PRISM is hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County and provides services to eleven counties.

These include Albany, Columbia, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and parts of Fulton, Herkimer, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.



iMap Invasives

iMapInvasives is an online tool used to record and map out the location of invasive species. Data collected in iMapInvasives is used to help natural resource professionals protect the environment from the threat of invasive species.

Download the iMap Invasives Mobile App or visit imapinvasives.org.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES OF THE CAPITAL REGION

PLANT EDITION



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Saratoga County



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides financial support to the Capital Region PRISM via the Environmental Protection Fund

Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)
50 W High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 885-8995
capitalregionprism.org

AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION



Brazilian Waterweed

(*Egeria densa*)

Elongate, finely serrated leaves in whorls of 4-8
Alters water quality, and flow
Attaches to boats and trailers



Yellow Floating Heart

(*Nymphoides peltata*)

Round or heart-shaped leaves, wavy margins
Fringed yellow petals
Change flow of water & create mosquito breeding ground
Seeds disperse by water, wildlife, or humans



Curly Leaf Pondweed

(*Potamogeton crispus*)

Toothed and wavy leaves
Reddish-brown
Produces turions for reproduction
Early season growth



Eurasian Watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Submerged species
12-21 pairs of feathery leaves, in whorls of 4
Impede boating, fishing and swimming
Fragments attach to boats and trailers



European Frogbit

(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

Free-floating species
Kidney/heart-shaped leaves
Dense mats inhibit recreational activities
Transported on fishing & boating equipment



Water Chestnut

(*Trapa natans*)

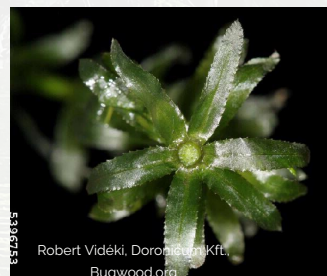
Free-floating rosette form mats
Triangular leaves with toothed edges
Seeds are very sharp
Transported on fishing and boating equipment



Carolina Fanwort

(*Cabomba caroliniana*)

Submerged species
Fan-like leaves, opposite
Decreases dissolved oxygen when it dies off
Spreads on boats



Hydrilla

(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Serrated leaves
Whorls of 5
Reddish midrib
Tubers & turions, Branch profusely



Brittle Naiad

(*Najas minor*)

Thin, stiff leaves curl under
Serrated edges
Reddish-brown stem
Food source for waterfowl increases spread

Tips on Reporting Invasive Species



1. Record location
2. Take photo, use ruler or hand for size reference

3. Include name and contact information on report
4. Send report to iMapInvasives or local PRISM