Preventing the occurrence and spread of aquatic weed infestations in South Carolina waters can save millions of public and private dollars each year in avoided control costs.

South Carolina Noxious Weed List

Alligatorweed	*Althernanthera philoxeriodes*
Brazilian elodea	*Egeria densa*
Common reed	*Phragmites australis*
Eurasian watermilfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*
Hydrilla *	*Hydrilla verticallata*
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*
Slender naiad	*Najas minor*
Water chestnut	*Trapa natans*
Water hyacinth	*Eichhornia crassipes*
Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*
Water primrose	*Ludwigia hexapetala*
African oxygen weed *	*Lagarosiphon major*
Ambulia *	*Limnophila sessilflora*
Arrowhead *	*Sagittaria sagittifolia*
Arrow-leaved monochoria *	*Monochoria hastata*
Duck-lettuce *	*Ottelia alismoides*
Exotic bur reed *	*Sparganium erectum*
Giant salvinia *	*Salvinia molesta S. biloba S. herzogii, S. auriculata*
Mediterranean caulerpa *	*Caulerpa taxifolia*
Melaleuca *	*Melaleuca quinquenervia*
Miramar weed *	*Hygrophila polysperma*
Pickerel weed *	*Monochoria vaginalis*
Mosquito fern *	*Azolla pinnata*
Rooted water hyacinth *	*Eichhornia azurea*
Water spinach *	*Ipomoea aquatica*
Wetland nightshade *	*Solanum tampicense*

* Also on the Federal Noxious Weed List

If you have any questions or just need more Information contact us at:

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/envaff/aquatic/index.html
E-mail: *invasiveweeds@dnr.sc.gov*

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program
2730 Fish Hatchery Road
West Columbia, SC 29172
Phone (803)755-2872

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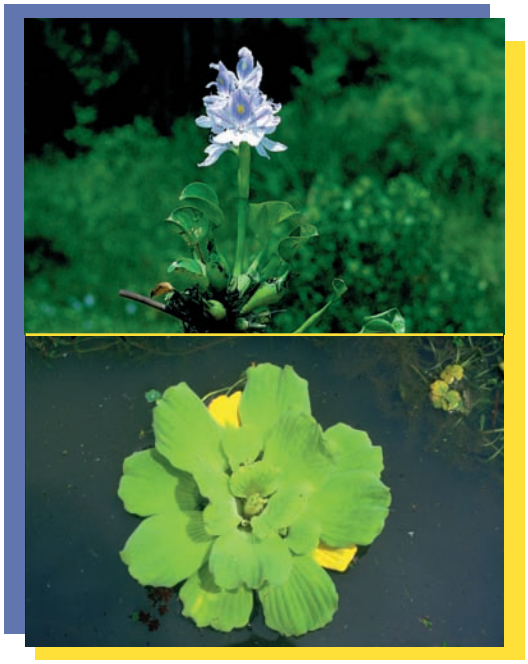
WATER HYACINTH
Eichhornia crassipes



WATER LETTUCE
Pistia stratiotes

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance specie

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Water Hyacinth

(*Eichhornia crassipes*)

This free-floating plant from Brazil reaches up to 3 feet in height. Leaves are thick, leathery, and elliptic to ovate in shape and emerge from the plant base. The leaf stem is inflated and spongy to provide floatation. The flowering spike contains 5-20 very showy light purple flowers with a yellow spot. Reproduction occurs by a stoloniferous growth of new plants or by flowering seed production. Roots are dark, fibrous, and feathery in appearance.

Although illegal to import, sell and distribute in South Carolina, this plant remains a very popular water garden plant. However, it can quickly become a nuisance because of the lack of natural controls and its rapid growth potential. A single plant can produce up to an acre of growth in one growing season. It creates large floating mats which can impair boating, block water intake pipes, and cause flooding.

Since 1985, over 14,000 acres of water hyacinth have been treated in South Carolina's public waterways at a cost of over $1.3 million. Water hyacinth problems have occurred on the Ashepoo River, Back River Reservoir, Cooper River, Goose Creek Reservoir, Lake Marion, Pee Dee River, and Waccamaw River.

Water lettuce

(Pistia stratiotes)

Another problematic floating plant is water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*). This plant is normally more succeptable to cold weather than hyacinth. Water lettuce is a free-floating, stoloniferous perennial from the tropical/subtropical regions of the world. Leaves are formed in rosettes, are densely pubescent, grayish to light green in color and up to 6 inches long. Leaf shape is ovate to obovate with a truncate apex. Reproduction occurs by a stoloniferous growth of new plants.

How you can help!

Aquatic weed problems are caused primarily by boaters and fishermen unknowingly spreading aquatic weeds from one lake to another and homeowners disposing of water garden and aquarium plants in public waters and private ponds. You can help control the spread of invasive aquatic plants by doing the following:

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
- Report aquatic weed problems in public waters to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, SCDNR (1-803-755-2872).