



Aquatic Nuisance Species Program

Illegal Aquatic Plants

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Preventing the occurrence and spread of aquatic weed infestations in public waters can save millions of public and private dollars each year in avoided control costs. Because prevention is so important, South Carolina, like several states, has adopted laws which prohibit the importation and distribution of specific exotic aquatic plant species known to cause problems.

The South Carolina Noxious Weed Act provides far reaching powers to “seize, quarantine, treat, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any noxious weed,” imported, distributed, or sold in South Carolina. To further deter persons from spreading nuisance aquatic weeds the law includes fines not exceeding \$500 and/or imprisonment not exceeding one year.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Aquatic Plant Management Council are working with Clemson University's Department of Plant Industry and the Department of Agriculture to improve the implementation of these laws as they relate to nuisance aquatic plants. Educating the public and the plant nursery industry about the law and the potential problems associated with certain aquatic plants is an important component of the prevention effort.

Aquatic plant species currently listed as illegal to possess, import, sell, and distribute in South Carolina include:

South Carolina Noxious Weed List

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

* also on Federal Noxious Weed List

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR JUST NEED MORE INFORMATION OUR INTERNET ADDRESS IS:

<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/water/envaff/aquatic/> or you can call or write to the above address.

E-mail: invasiveweeds@dnr.sc.gov