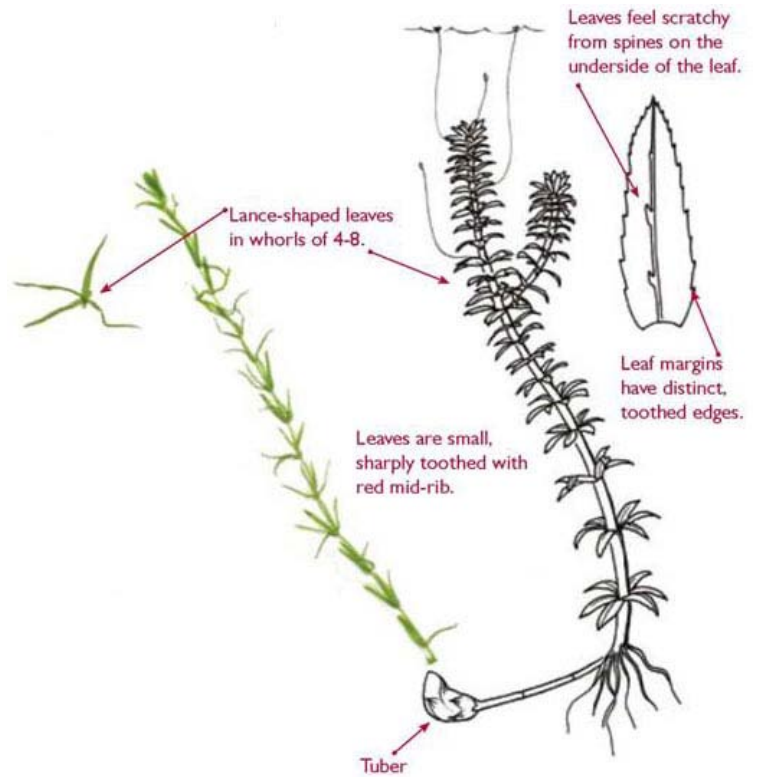




Hydrilla verticillata: What Marinas Need to Know



March 19, 2012 - *Hydrilla verticillata*, one of the world's most damaging aquatic invasive plants, was discovered in Cayuga Inlet in Ithaca, NY, in August 2011. While not yet known to be in Cayuga Lake proper (or any of the Finger Lakes), the plant is widespread throughout the Inlet. Hydrilla has also been found in several other locations in NYS. The plant can easily be transported into uninfested waterbodies as plant fragments on boats from infested waters. **Marinas can help prevent the spread of *Hydrilla*** into uninfested lakes in NY when boats are being launched in the spring and hauled for winter storage. While it is unlikely, some fragments of *Hydrilla* in protected areas on a shrink-wrapped boat may be able to survive over-wintering. Turions (small, white to yellowish, potato- or bulb-like tubers attached to the roots) are less susceptible to drying and may remain viable for longer periods.

Steps to be Observed When Launching Your Customers' Watercraft in the Spring

1. To prevent any viable fragments or turions from getting into surface waters, before pre-launch cleaning:
 - a. Place a screen or filter fabric over any storm drains that might receive runoff during boat cleaning operations to collect plant fragments.
 - b. Install earthen or straw bale berms around areas where watercraft will be pressure washed to contain wash water and remove plant fragments.
 - c. Ensure that wash water not flow into any surface waters.
2. Inspect the watercraft for any plant material; remove any plant material and dispose of properly (in a trash can, bin, or dumpster, or on dry land above the waterline in a bermed area where it won't get washed back into the lake, a stream, or a storm drain leading to surface waters).

3. When cleaning or pressure washing watercraft prior to launching:
 - a. Clean the hull thoroughly, particularly around engines, outdrives, propellers, prop guards, trim tabs, anchors and anchor chains or ropes, boat bumpers, all compartments that held water, and any places in which plant fragments may have become trapped and overlooked when the boat was winterized. On sailboats, pay particular attention to movable keels. On jet boats and personal watercraft, pay special attention to drive water pumping systems and jet steering systems.
 - b. Inspect and flush engine cooling systems, freshwater systems, live well pumping systems and any other areas on the vessel where plants or plant fragments may have been trapped, removing and properly disposing of any plant material discovered.
 - c. Ideally, let the boat sit in a sunny area for several days until thoroughly dry before launching.

For Hydrilla clean boating measures that your boating customers should be following during the boating season, see the Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program / New York Sea Grant Extension brochure: **NOT WANTED! Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)**, available for download from the NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse at <http://nyis.info>.

Steps to be Observed When Winterizing Your Customers' Watercraft

1. Before removing watercraft from the water to be winterized: *Review and follow step 1 (above) to prevent any plant material from being washed back into any surface waters.*
2. When hauling watercraft from the water, inspect the watercraft and your lift equipment (fork lift, slings, hoists, trailers) after each use for any plant material. Remove plant material and dispose of properly (see #2, above).
3. When cleaning or pressure washing watercraft:
 - a. Follow the guidelines presented in #2 and #3 (above).
 - d. Ensure that wash water not be allowed to flow into any surface waterbodies, including the lake from which the watercraft was just hauled or into storm drains leading to the lake or a stream.
 - e. Allow the vessel to dry thoroughly before shrink wrapping and placing in its final storage location.

Please take note of potential over-winter survival of *Hydrilla* stems, leaves and turions (above). It is critical that all *Hydrilla* fragments and turions either be removed and disposed of or allowed to dry and freeze for the entire winter season.

4. When finished hauling and winterizing watercraft:
 - a. Inspect and clean all lift equipment (fork lift, slings, hoists, trailers); remove and dispose of plant material properly.
 - b. Around docks, launch sites, and other areas within your marina, rake, remove, and dispose properly any aquatic plants or plant fragments that may have accumulated.

Credits: *Hydrilla* photograph - David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Hydrilla identification line art courtesy of Cayuga Lake Watershed Network



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



This publication, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Invasive Species Program, and the New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse are supported by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund through a contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Additional support was provided by the New York Sea Grant Extension program.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer

© Cornell University, March 19, 2012