

July/August 2004

Environmental Update



NCCE – Onslow County Center
Onslow County Multipurpose Complex
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Telephone: (910) 455-5873
Fax (910) 455-0977
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow>

NCCE – New Hanover County Center
6206 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403-3822
Telephone: (910) 452-6393
Fax (910) 452-6398
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/newhanover>

NCCE – Brunswick County Center
Brunswick County Government Complex
25 Referendum Drive (Building N)
P. O. Box 109
Bolivia, NC 28422
Telephone: (910) 253-2610
Fax: (910) 253-2612
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick>

Pond plants: choose wisely!

Yes, there **can** be too much of a good thing! There can also be a lot of bad things! Whether you have a home garden pond, storm water detention pond, or a farm pond; aquatic plant management can become an issue.

But it was only ONE plant!”

Some plants are highly invasive. Water hyacinth is a good example. This plant is illegal in Texas, Florida, and South Carolina. A single plant can cover a 5-acre pond within just a few years. It is not currently illegal in North Carolina; however, care should be taken when disposing of extra plants.

The North Carolina Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has determined that the following aquatic plants “exhibit characteristics which threaten or may threaten the health or safety of the people of North Carolina or beneficial uses of the waters of North Carolina”:

(1) Aquatic Species Listed on the Federal Noxious Weed List.



| Scientific name | Common name |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Azolla pinnata</i> | Pinnate mosquitofern |
| <i>Eichhornia azurea</i> | Anchored water hyacinth |
| <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> | Hydrilla |
| <i>Hygrophila polysperma</i> | Indian hygrophila |
| <i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> | Swamp morningglory, water spinach |
| <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> | African Elodea |
| <i>Limnophila sessiliflora</i> | Limnophila |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> | Melaleuca |
| <i>Monochoria hastata</i> | Arrowleaved monochoria |
| <i>Monochoria vaginalis</i> | Monochoria |
| <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> | Arrowhead |
| <i>Salvinia auriculata</i> | Giant salvinia |
| <i>Salvinia biloba</i> | Giant salvinia |
| <i>Salvinia herzogii</i> | Giant salvinia |
| <i>Salvinia molesta</i> | Giant salvinia |
| <i>Sparganium erectum</i> | Branched burreed |
| <i>Stratiotes aloides L.</i> | Crab's-claw |

(2) Additional Noxious Aquatic Weeds.

| Scientific name | Common name |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>Crassula helmsii</i> | Swamp stonecrop |
| <i>Lagarosiphon</i> spp. (All sp) | African elodea |
| <i>Salvinia</i> spp. (All except <i>S. rotundifolia</i>) | Water fern |
| <i>Trapa</i> spp. (All species) | Water Chestnut |
| <i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i> | Uruguay waterprimrose |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L. | Purple loosestrife |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Common reed |
| <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> | Alligatorweed |
| <i>Egeria densa</i> | Brazilian elodea |
| <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> L. | Eurasian watermilfoil |
| <i>Najas minor</i> All. | Brittleleaf naiad |

Aquatic plant information sources:

Water Gardens and Weeds (by S. H. Kay and S. T. Hoyle, NCSU). This brochure, which has photos and descriptions of the most common aquatic "invaders", is available from Cooperative Extension.

Water Garden Plants: Common Names

This site contains images and characteristics of a long list of aquatic plants:

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/water-garden/common_names.html

Illegal Aquatic Plants of South Carolina (by C. Page and R. Chapiesky). This booklet is available from the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, SC Department of Natural Resources (phone: 803-734-9100). This booklet is also available as a pdf file:

<http://water.dnr.state.sc.us/water/envaff/aquatic/img/illegalaqua.pdf>

Understanding Invasive Aquatic Weeds. This classroom activity book is published by the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc. Copies can be downloaded from:

<http://www.apms.org/book/activity.htm>
or email a request to: scott.aquarium@usm.

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society (<http://www.tapms.org>) has a list, with drawings, of beneficial native aquatic plants and harmful non-native aquatic weeds.



Aquatic Plant Management: Best Management Practices Handbook in Support of Fish and Wildlife Habitat. This handbook was prepared by the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (<http://www.aquatics.org>).

Help stop the spread of invasives!

There are several things that you can do to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic plants:

- When buying aquatic plants, choose a reputable nursery. This is true whether you are getting the plant locally or through the mail.
- When your plant arrives, check it carefully for hitchhikers. Duckweed is a common hitchhiker, although more troublesome plants also get spread this way. Wash the plant prior to putting it in your pond.
- If you transport a boat from one lake, pond, or river to another, make sure that you aren't also taking the local flora and fauna with you. Wash the boat (and trailer) before leaving.
- If you are getting rid of extra plants from your pond, **do not** just toss them away. Completely dry or freeze the plants. If seeds are present, do not add the plants to the compost pile. Some of the seeds may survive. Instead, place the dried plants in the garbage.

Sincerely,

Diana M.C. Rashash

Diana M.C. Rashash, PhD
Extension Area Specialized Agent
Natural Resources-Environmental Education

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
North Carolina State University
Onslow County Center
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540