

Keep A Lookout!

Aquatic Invasive Plants in Western New York



These species may be spreading in your area. Early Detection and Management can help prevent invasions and reduce the harmful impacts of these species. Maps show current reported distribution of species in WNY and surrounding counties.*



Present in County

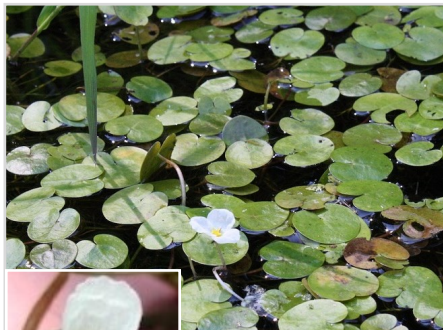


Not present in County

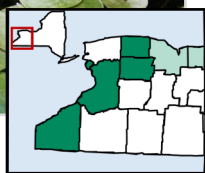


Present in FL-PRISM Counties

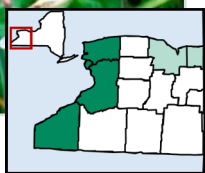
*Updated August 2015



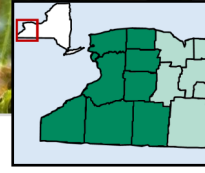
EUROPEAN FROGBIT



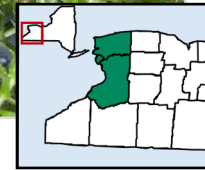
FLOWERING RUSH



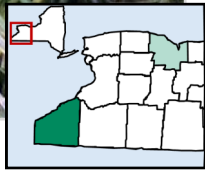
CURLY LEAF PONDWEED



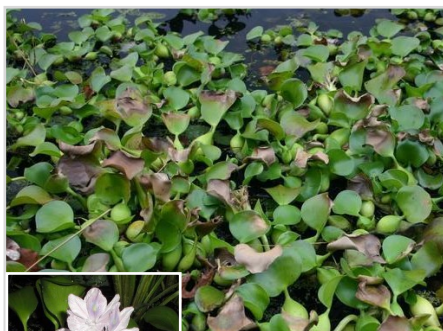
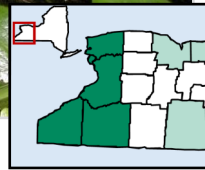
HYDRILLA



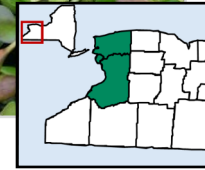
STARRY STONEWORT



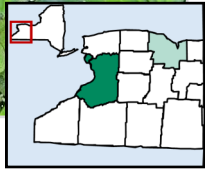
WATER CHESTNUT



WATER HYACINTH



WATER LETTUCE



YELLOW FLOATING HEART



To report a sighting, please login to www.nyimapinvasives.org



iMapInvasives
Sharing information
for strategic management

Aquatic Invasive Plant Priorities in Western New York

EUROPEAN FROG-BIT (*Hydrocharis morus-ranae*)

Annual free floating aquatic plant. **Leaves** are leathery and round heart shaped with dark purple undersides. **Stem** lacks a midline groove which helps to distinguish it from American frog-bit. Resembles a miniature water lily. **Flowers** are 3-petaled, white with yellow center, 0.5 inches in diameter and may occur in clusters up to 5. Reproduces by turions. Threatens freshwater ecosystems by outcompeting native vegetation.

CURLY LEAF PONDWEED (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Perennial submerged aquatic herb. **Leaves** green to reddish green, translucent, finely toothed, have a prominent mid-rib and have curly margins. **Stems** flat and grow 1-3 feet long. **Flowers** brown and inconspicuous. Reproduces by turions and seeds. Threatens lakes and ponds by forming dense vegetation and by dying off early in the season, which decreases oxygen levels leading to algal blooms and nutrient loading.

STARRY STONEWORT (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

Macroalgae, light green in color. Leaf-like whorls branch around stem. Branches feel smooth and are irregular. **Stems** made of cells held together by nodes. Small star-shaped, creamy-white bulbils appear year round and located at the base and axils of the main stem. Rhizoids are colorless. Reproduces by bulbils and oospores. Threatens freshwater lakes by decreasing habitat for insects, and freshwater fish.

WATER HYACINTH (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

Perennial free floating, stoloniferous herb. **Leaves** entire, round, waxy up to 6 inches wide, variable in size. Floating air filled leaf petioles growing in rosettes support inflorescence. **Flower** is a showy spike of up to 23 light purple individual flowers with 6 petals each. **Roots** dark purple to black, feathery and hang beneath leaves. Reproduces by seeds and stolons. Threatens lakes, ponds, rivers, and wetland habitats. Forms dense mats that deplete light and oxygen to native plants.

YELLOW FLOATING HEART (*Nymphoides peltata*)

Perennial herb with stout, branching stems up to 0.1 inch thick. Covers the water's surface with rounded heart-shaped leaves. **Leaves** 2-6 inches in diameter, oppositely arranged, have purplish underside, and rise from underwater rhizomes. **Flowers** bright yellow with fringed edges, have 5 petals and rise a few inches above the leaves. Reproduces by seed, rhizomes and broken stems. Threatens native plants and blocks waterways. Prefers slow moving rivers, lakes and other waters from 1.5 - 13 feet deep. *Species is not yet found in the WNY PRISM Region.*

FLOWERING RUSH (*Butomus umbellatus*)

Perennial aquatic herbaceous plant that grows 1-4 feet. **Leaves** narrow, pointed, triangular and have smooth edges with parallel veins. **Stem** is erect when in shallow water but in deeper water will float. **Flowers** pink, 3 petals with 3 sepals. Umbels have 20-50 flowers. Difficult to identify when not in flower. Spreads through rhizomes and bulbils. Threatens lakeshores and rivers by outcompeting native plants.

HYDRILLA (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Perennial submersed herb rooted in saturated soil, in water up to 20 feet deep. **Stem** slender, branching, up to 25 feet long. **Leaves** generally found in whorls of 4-6, up to 2 inches apart on stem - closer together on branches on or near the surface. Leaf margins toothed. Turion near growing tip in late fall. Tubers present. Reproduces by fragmentation, rhizomes, tubers and turions. Threatens freshwater ecosystems by crowding out native vegetation.

WATER CHESTNUT (*Trapa natans*)

Annual, rooted herb with a leafy rosette that floats on the surface. Surface **leaves**, triangular, 1-2 inches long, waxy with toothed edges. Submerged leaves are feathery. **Stems** up to 16 feet long. Stems with bladder like swelling. **Flowers** small, white with 4 petals. **Fruit** is a thorned nutlet, greater than 1 inch in size. Threatens native plants and diversity, and impedes recreation.

WATER LETTUCE (*Pistia stratiotes*)

Perennial free floating herb that resembles an open head of lettuce. **Leaves** thick, dull, light green, up to 6 inches long, covered in dense white hairs and have ridged parallel veins. Largest leaves are about 6 inches long. **Flowers** inconspicuous, clustered on small, fleshy stalk in leaf axis. **Roots** feathery. **Fruit** are light green berries. Spreads by seed and vegetative reproduction. Threatens lakes and rivers by decreasing biodiversity and impacting transportation.



For more information and management options for these and other invasive species, please visit: www.wnyprism.org

Special thanks to the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (www.MIPN.org). PHOTO CREDITS: Bugwood.org - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Graves Lovell, John M. Randall, Gustavo Darrigran, Robert Videki, Lori Mroczek; Meghan Johnstone, AIPPP; Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan; NOAA; Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Grand Valley State University; Andrea Locke, and WNY PRISM. Taxonomy based on USDA PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>), NY Flora Atlas (www.nyflora.org), The University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (<http://www.bugwood.org>), Kaufman, Sylvan Ramsey, and Wallace Kaufman, *Invasive Plants*. 2nd ed. N.p.: Stakhole, n.d. Print.