

Aquatic Plant ID: Hydrilla vs. Elodea

Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*

INVASIVE

General description:

- Submerged, herbaceous perennial
- Slender stems, can grow up to 1" per day, up to 25'
- Can grow in shallow water –30' deep

Flowers/fruit:

- A single, tiny white flower, 3 translucent petals

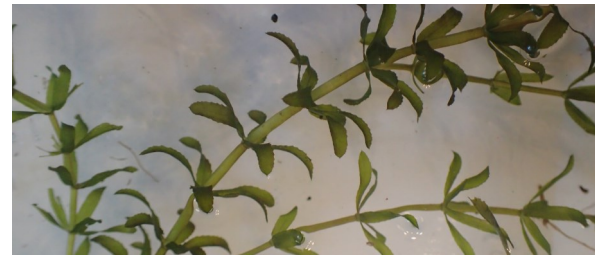
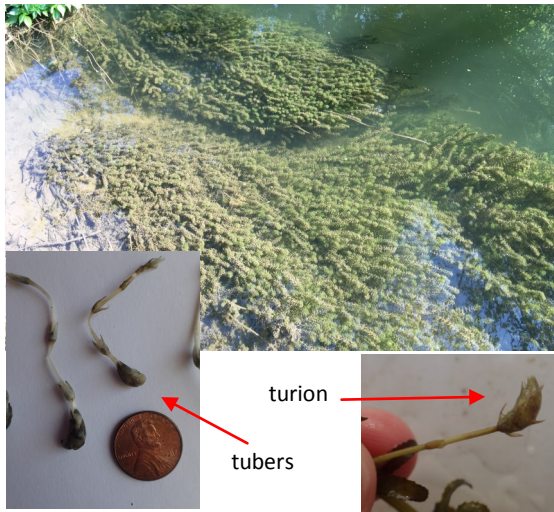
Leaves:

- Whorls of 3-8, typically **5 leaflets**

• **Serrated edges**

Reproduction:

- By fragmentation, buds (turions), and tubers (in sediment)
- Tubers can remain viable for up to 6+ years



Common Waterweed - *Elodea canadensis*

NATIVE

General description:

- Slender stems, branched, can grow up to 4'
- Can grow in ponds, slow-moving streams, tidal tributaries
- Can form dense stands in optimal conditions

Flowers/fruit:

- Small white flowers, 3 petals
- Blooms July-Sept, not often seen

Leaves:

- Whorls, always **3 leaflets**
- **Edges appear smooth** but with very finely serrated (requires significant magnification)

Reproduction:

- By fragmentation, buds, and rarely seeds

