## Aquatic Plant ID: Hydrilla vs. Elodea

### Hydrilla - *Hydrilla verticillata*

**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

### Common Waterweed - *Elodea canadensis*

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrilla</th>
<th>Common Waterweed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serrated edges</td>
<td>Whorls, always 3 leaflets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reproduction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrilla</th>
<th>Common Waterweed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By fragmentation, buds (turions), and tubers (in sediment)</td>
<td>By fragmentation, buds, and rarely seeds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INVASIVE**

- Tubers can remain viable for up to 6+ years

**NATIVE**

**Common Waterweed** is native to the region, while **Hydrilla** is invasive.