KEEP A LOOKOUT! for new INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest!

Early detection and rapid response can prevent the spread of invasive plants. Report sightings and find current distribution maps by visiting mipn.org/edrr

WATER LETTUCE
Pistia stratiotes

ROUGH MANNAGRASS
Glyceria maxima

STARRY STONEWORT
Nitellopsis obtusa

WATER CHESTNUT
Trapa natans

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BRAZILIAN WATERWEED
Egeria densa

CAROLINA FANWORT
Cabomba caroliniana

EUROPEAN FROGBIT
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

EUROPEAN WATER CLOVER
Marsilea quadrifolia

FLOWERING RUSH
Butomus umbellatus

HYDRILLA
Hydrilla verticillata

PARROT FEATHER
Myriophyllum aquaticum

POND WATER STAR WORT
Callitriche stagnalis

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Updated April 2023
See reverse side for species descriptions
New INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest

BRAZILIAN WATERWEED (Egeria densa)
Submersed, perennial herb. Can be rooted in water up to 20 ft. deep or free floating. Lacks specialized storage organs, such as tubers. Stem single or branching. Leaves bright green, 0.8-1.2 in. long, up to 0.2 in. wide, usually in whorls of 4-6. Short intervals along stem gives bushy appearance. Leaf edges minutely serrated. Flowers white, 0.7–1 in. across, with 3 petals. Spreads by plant fragments.

CAROLINA FANWORT (Cabomba caroliniana)
Submersed, herbaceous perennial. Two types of leaves. Submersed leaves opposite, fan-shaped, deeply dissected, 2 in. wide. Small floating leaves entire and linear elliptic. Plant stems can grow 10-30 ft. Flowers small 0.5 in., usually white, but may be pale yellow or light pink/purple on 1-4 in. stem. Fruit leathery, flask shaped. Seeds generally not viable in northern regions. Spreads vegetatively. Native to southeastern US. Thrives in shallow, slow moving or stagnant waters.

EUROPEAN FROG BIT (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)
Free-floating herb, resembles a miniature water lily. Leaves leathery, heart-shaped, 1-2 in. wide, smooth-edged with spongy, purplish-red undersides. Flowers 0.5 in. across appear singly with 3 white petals and yellow centers. Roots 3-8 in. long, unbranched, dangle from the underside of each rosette. Spreads by fragments and buds (turions).

EUROPEAN WATER CLOVER (Marsilea quadrifolia)
Herbaceous, perennial fern. New leaves emerge as fiddleheads. Leaves are composed of 2 double leaflets that give it a four-leaf clover appearance. Leaves are smooth and can be emergent, floating, or submersed. Spreads by rhizomes and spores, producing sporocarps that are thick, oval, and hairy.

FLOWERING RUSH (Butomus umbellatus)
Emergent, perennial herb (can be submersed in deep water). Emergent leaves 3 ft. tall, stiff, narrow, and triangular in cross-section. Flowers atop a tall stalk. Spreads by plant fragments, buds (turions) and root pieces.

HYDRILLA (Hydrilla verticillata)
Submersed, perennial herb roots in saturated soil, in water up to 20 ft. deep. Stem slender, branching, up to 25 ft. long. Leaves green, 0.6 in. long with pointed tips, in whorls of 3-10. 0.1-2 in. apart on stem. Leaf edges saw-toothed, rough to touch. Male and female flowers on separate plants. Spreads by root fragments, buds (turions) and roots.

PARROT FEATHER (Myriophyllum aquaticum)
Emergent, perennial herb with leaves trailing on water surface. Stems up to 5 ft. long, become erect at the tips and can emerge up to a foot above the water surface. Leaves oblong, feathery, 0.5-2 in. long, in whorls of 4-6 around the stem. Flowers inconspicuous, white. Spreads by plant fragments.

POND WATER STAR WORT (Callitriche stagnalis)
Perennial herb. Stems 4-12 in. long. Leaves opposite, floating or submersed. Floating leaves oval or spoon-shaped with 5-7 veins, 0.1-0.3 in. wide and up to 0.8 in. long. Submerged leaves linear, with 1 vein, 0.2-0.4 in. long (can resemble floating leaves). Flowers tiny, located in the leaf axils. Fruits nearly round, 0.06-0.08 in. thick with a thin winged margin. Spreads by plant fragments and seed.

REED MANNAGRASS (Glyceria maxima)
Emergent, perennial grass 1.5-8 ft. tall. Stem unbranched. Leaves flat, 9-12 in. long and 0.3 – 0.8 in. wide with prominent mid-ribs. Leaf sheath closed for most of length. Leaf edges with short, stiff hairs, rough to the touch. Inflorescence open with many branches (panicle), droop at maturity with 50+ flattened, egg-shaped spikelets. Spreads by rhizomes and seed.

STARRY STONWORT (Nitellopsis obtusa)
Macroalgae that can grow over 30 in. Stems light green, smooth and thin, branches in whorls of 4-8, uneven in length, blunt at the end. No true flowers. Fruit is white, star shaped bulbil for which the plant is named. Bulbils appear at nodes at the base of each cluster of branches (rhizoids). Spreads by plant fragments and bulbils.

WATER CHESTNUT (Trapa natans)
Rooted, annual herb with a leafy rosette that floats on the surface. Stems up to 16 ft. long, with 2 types of leaves. Submersed leaves feathery, whorled along the stem and up to 6 in. long. Emergent leaves triangular, 1-2 in. long, waxy with toothed edges. Leaf stems with bladder-like swelling. Flowers small, white with 4 petals. Fruit 1 in. wide, hard nut with 4 stout barbs. Spreads by seeds and plant fragments.

WATER HYACINTH (Eichhornia crassipes)
Free-floating herb, grows erect up to 3 ft. tall. Leaves thick and waxy, 6 in. wide, oval to elliptical, in whorls of 6-10. Curve inward at the edges. Leaf stems have air bladders that keep leaves afloat. Flowers showy, lavender blue/purple, 6-petaled, on upright spikes. 8-15 flowers occur on a single spike. Uppermost flower has yellow splotch in its center. Spreads by stolons and seed.

WATER LETTUCE (Pistia stratiotes)
Free-floating herb forms rosette of leaves resembling a head of lettuce. Leaves light green, thick, .75-8 in. long, with dense, short, white hairs. Leaf margins are wavy/scalloped. Leaves are narrow, pointed, and spine-tipped. Flowers hang below the rosette. Flowers conspicuous, pale green spadix with white spathe. Spreads vegetatively by stolons that produce new rosettes.

WATER SOLDIER (Stratiotes aloides)
Submerged, perennial herb floats to the surface during summer months. Leaves 15 in. long, thin, serrated, arranged in rosette. Resembles an aloe plant. Leaves are sharp and can cause injury. Flowers, when present, are showy with three white petals. Fruit fleshy berries containing 24 seeds. Can grow in water depths up to 16 ft. Spreads primarily by plant fragments, also by seed.

YELLOW FLOATING HEART (Nymphoides peltata)
Herbaceous, perennial roots in slow/still waters. Leaves 2-6 in., circular or heart-shaped, similar to those of native waterlilies, but with distinct scalloped margins. Each stalk (peduncle) emerges 2-3 in. above the water surface and produces 2-5 flowers, 1-1.5 in. in diameter when fully open. Flowers are showy, bright yellow, with 5 petals, fringed at the edges. Fruit flat, oval capsules .5-1 in. long, can contain many seeds. Seeds 0.1 in, shiny with hairy (ciliate) margins. Spreads by plant fragments and seed.

YELLOW IRIS (Iris pseudacorus)
Perennial herb grows 1-5 ft. in shallow water, ditches, wetlands, floodplains. Leaves stiff, sword-like, up to 0.75 in wide, dark green - blue green with raised mid-rib. Flower stems similar in length to leaves. Flowers cream to yellow, 2-3 per stem, 3-4 in. wide, 3 small upright petals and 3 showy, downward-pointing, sepals. Spreads by rhizomes and seed. Angular 2-4 in. seed pods can hold hundreds of smooth, flat seeds. Thick, pink rhizomes allow for extensive vegetative spread.

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS
- Clean, Drain, and Dry boats, trailers, and other recreational equipment before leaving a lake or river
- Construct water gardens away from lakes, rivers, and other waters
- Rinse aquatic garden plants before planting
- Never release aquatic garden plants into local waterways

For control and management of these species, please visit the following links: mipn.org/control or invasive.org/control

PHOTO CREDITS: Anna-Lena Anderberg / Michelle Beloskuri / Scott Brown / Wendy VanDyke Evans / Graves Lovell / Nancy Loewenstein / Leslie J. Mehrhoff / Mike Naylor / Paul Skowinski / Robert Vedeki / Vermont Invasives / Rebekah D. Wallace / Shaun Winterton / Jorg Hempel