

The Great Winneconne Water Hyacinth Expedition

Winneconne, Wisconsin is just west of Oshkosh, Lake Winneconne is part of the Pool Lakes (Winneconne, Poygan and Butte des Morts) of Lake Winnebago

- Anchored water hyacinth (*Eichhornia azurea*); Water hyacinth, floating (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
- A floating perennial herb that is native to South America introduced as an ornamental into the US in 1884. It can grow quickly, forming dense mats which restrict light to the underwater environment.
- Overview
- Identification
- Distribution
- Control
- Photos
- Resources



W.Robles, MSU, Bugwood.org UGA2132054

Overview



These species are Prohibited (Red counties)

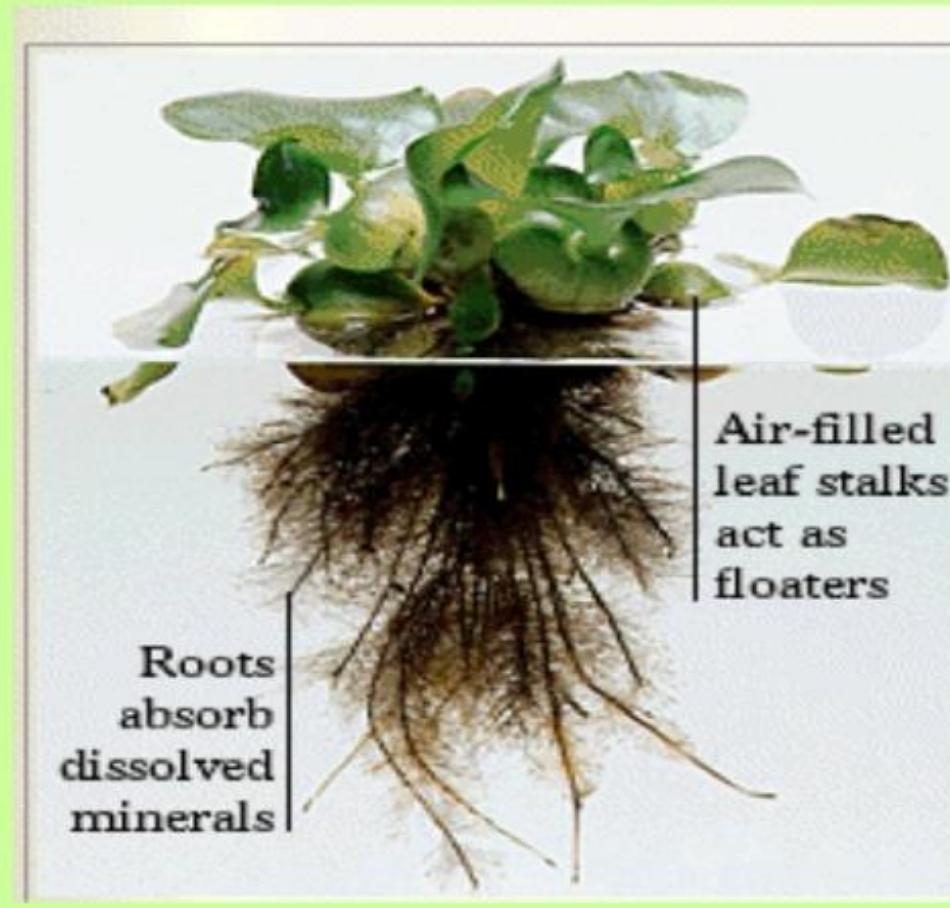
- Other names for this plant include:
- Common names: water orchid, floating water hyacinth
- Scientific names: *Pontederia crassipes*, *Eichhornia speciosa*
- Ecological threat:
 - Invades freshwater lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes and ditches making boating, fishing, and almost all other water activities difficult.
 - Degrades water quality by blocking the air-water interface and greatly reducing oxygen levels in the water, impacting underwater animals such as fish.
 - Greatly reduces biological diversity: mats block sunlight, preventing growth of submerged and immersed plant communities and also alter animal communities by blocking access to the water and/or reducing plants the animals depend on for shelter and nesting.
- **Classification in Wisconsin: Prohibited**
- Species Assessment Groups (SAG) were assembled to recommend a legal classification for each species considered for NR 40. The recommendation for water hyacinth was based upon this literature review developed by the department.

Identification

- Leaves: Thick green waxy leaves, rounded, circular or elliptical in shape with gently incurved sides. Leaves are formed in rosettes and get to be 6" wide and can rise between 1- 3 feet above water.
- Flowers: Lavender blue with a yellow blotch. Flowers have 6 petals and are 2 inches wide.
- Fruits & seeds: Three celled capsule with many seeds.
- Roots: Submersed roots blue black to dark purple, feathery, dense near root crown, tips with long dark root caps.
- Similar species: May be confused with emergent form of frog's-bit, *Limnobium spongia*.



Features of Water Hyacinth



Distribution and Control

- Counties in WI where water hyacinth has been reported. (2013) **Upper North**: Price County
- **West/Mississippi**: Buffalo County **Central**: Portage County and Outagamie County
- **South Central**: Dane County (Madison, Wi) **SouthEast**: Milwaukee County, Walworth County
- Kenosha County and now, Winnebago County (East Central Wisconsin)

• **Control**

- Mechanical: Very small populations can be controlled by pulling. Physical removal should be completed before flowering and seed set.
- Chemical: Registered aquatic herbicides can provide temporary control of water hyacinth in small scale applications. 2,4 D or glyphosate can be effective. Application of aquatic herbicide requires a permit.
- Biological: Biological control options: *Neochetina eichhorniae*, *N. bruchi* (weevils), and *Niphograpta albipunctalis* (moth larvae) have been used in tropical and subtropical populations. No known biological controls have been tested in Wisconsin.



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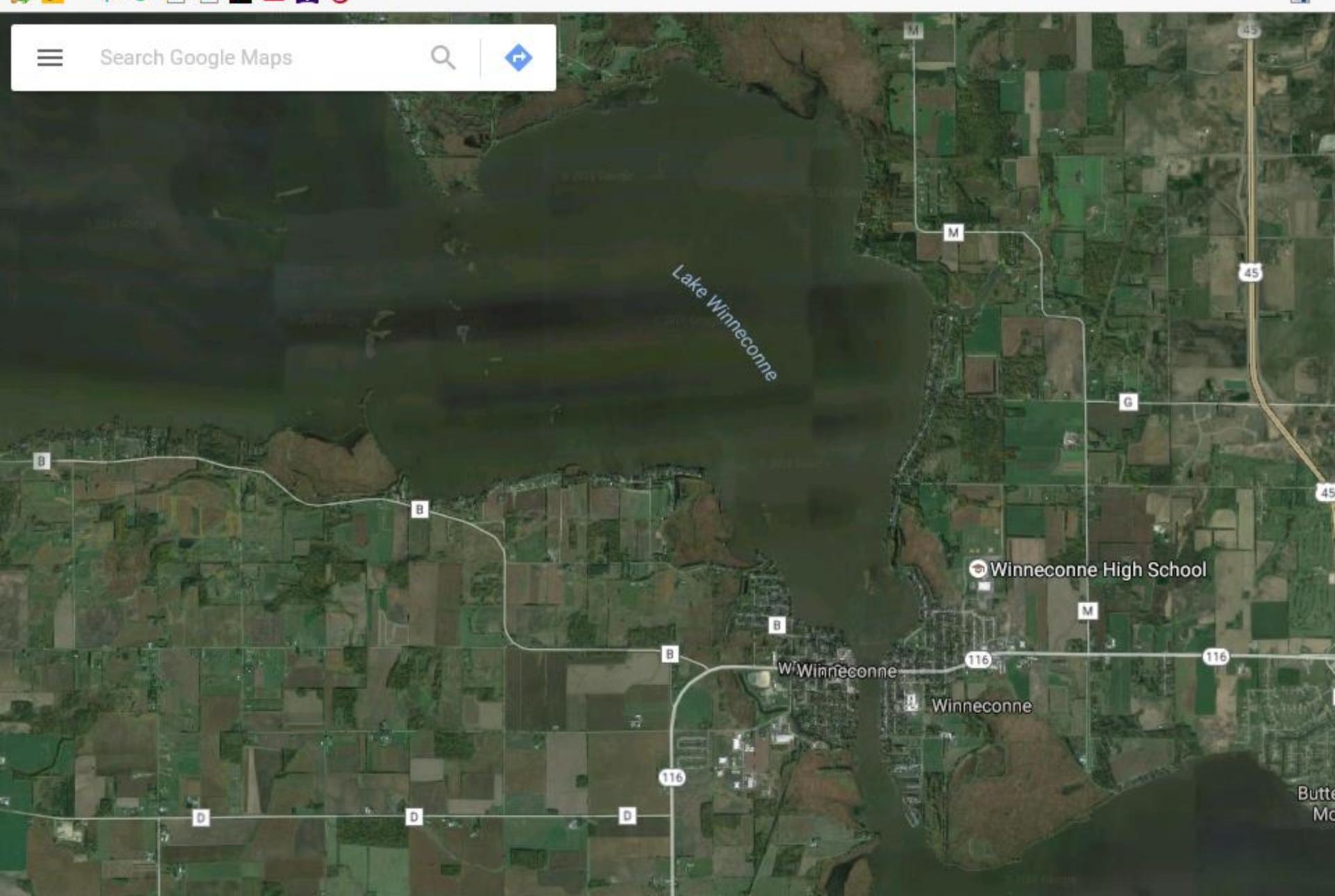


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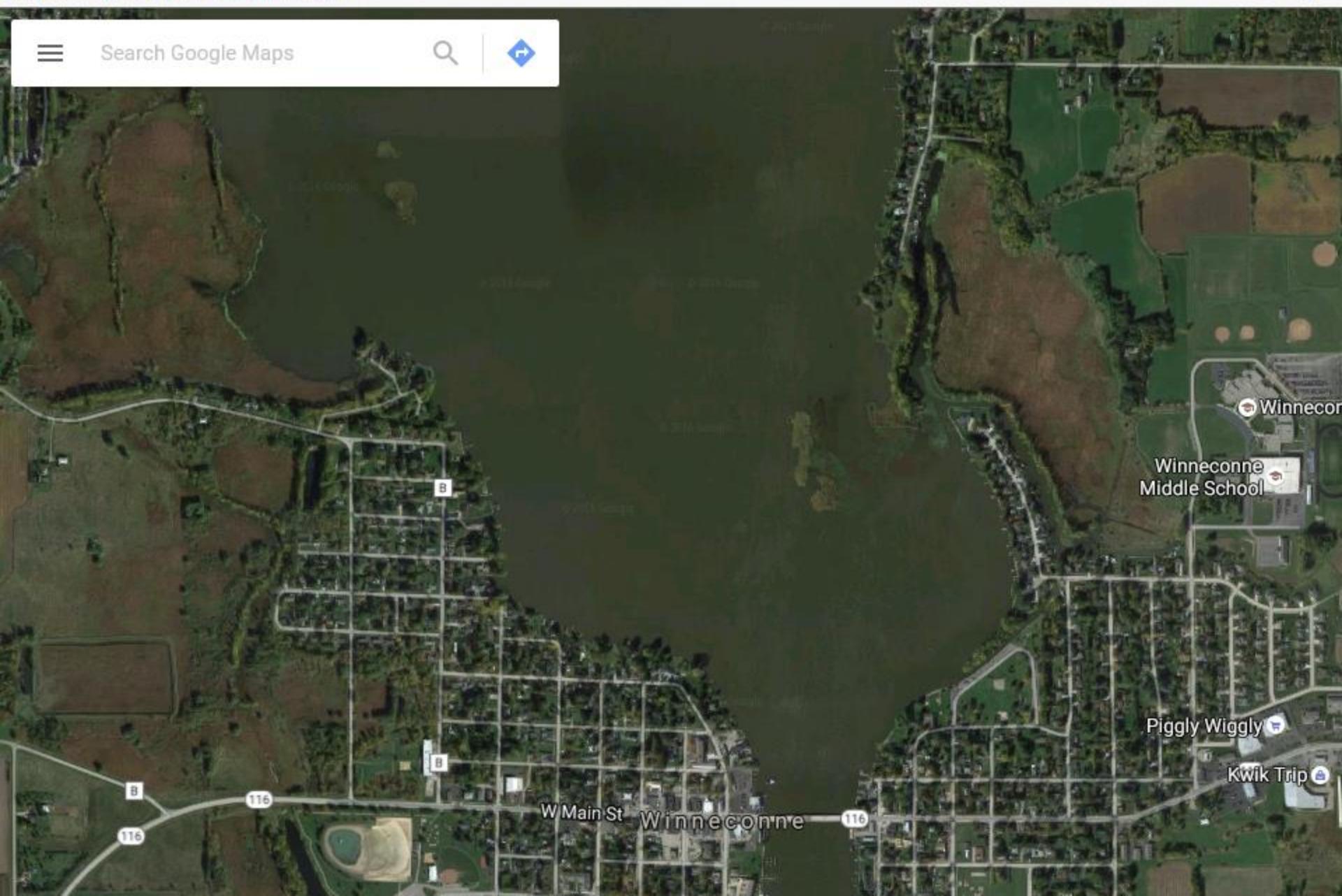


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What to look for:



Virginia Tech Weed I.D. Guide



Fall of 2015 Hunt



How do I report it to the Wisconsin DNR?

- **If it is a plant:**
- Be sure the suspected [invasive species](#) has not been [previously found on the waterbody](#).
- Take a digital photo of the plant in the setting where it was found (if possible). Then collect 5 – 10 intact specimens. Try to get the root system, all leaves as well as seed heads and flowers when present. Place in a ziplock bag with no water. Place on ice and transport to refrigerator.
- Fill out form [3200-125 - Aquatic Invasive Plant Incident Report](#)
- Contact your local DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Contact listed below and deliver the specimens, report and digital photo (if available). Please do this as soon as possible – no later than 4 days after you discover the plant.
- **Milwaukee Area** (Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha)
Heidi Bunk, 262-574-2130, heidi.bunk@wi.gov
- **Green Bay Area** (Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano)
Brenda Nordin, 920-662-5141, brenda.nordin@wi.gov
- **Green Bay Area** (Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond Du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie)
Mary Gansberg, 920-662-5489 mary.gansberg@wi.gov
- **Oshkosh Area** (Green Lake, Marquette, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago)
Ted Johnson, 920-424-2104 tedm.johnson@wi.gov
- **Madison Area** (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk)
Susan Graham, 608-275-3329, susan.graham@wi.gov
- **Woodruff Area** (Iron, Vilas, Oneida)
Kevin Gauthier, 715-356-5211, kevin.gauthiersr@wi.gov
- **Rhinelander Area** (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, Taylor)
Jim Kreitlow, 715-365-8947, james.kreitlow@wi.gov
- **Spooner Area** (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Washburn)
Pamela Toshner, 715-635-4073, pamela.toshner@wi.gov
- **Spooner Area** (Barron, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer)
Alex Smith, 715-635-4142, alex.smith@wi.gov
- **Eau Claire Area** (Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Dunn, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Wood)
Jodi Lepsch, 715-838-8385, jodi.lepsch@wi.gov