

Brazilian elodea and Hydrilla

invasive species
watch 

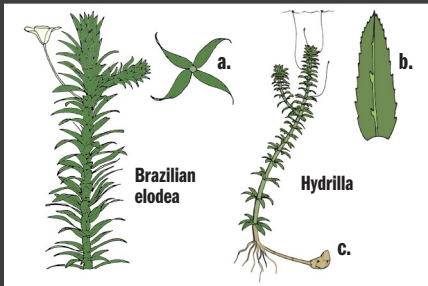
upper plant: Brazilian elodea
lower plant: Hydrilla

Why watch?

Egeria densa, (a.k.a. Brazilian elodea or anacharis) and *Hydrilla verticillata* (a.k.a. hydrilla) are non-native aquatic plants invading and causing harm in our lakes, ponds and streams. These submersed plants form thick mats that hinder recreational activities such as fishing, boating and swimming. They also harm fish and wildlife by altering habitat and displacing native aquatic plants.

Both plants can be introduced into new waterways when people dump aquaria, release water garden plants, and transport boats and recreational equipment with hitchhiking plant fragments. Early detection of new populations, however, may help limit their spread and allow for their removal. Therefore, your help in identifying new infestations and preventing the spread of these and other non-native aquatic species is needed to protect our waters.

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Identification tips

- Both are freshwater plants that grow entirely underwater, but can form thick mats visible at the water surface.
- Both plants typically have whorls of 4 or more spear-shaped leaves around the stem (a); in contrast, native elodeas* have 2-3 leaves per whorl.
- Hydrilla leaves have obvious coarse teeth along their edges (b); native and Brazilian elodea leaves do not.
- Hydrilla may have bulb-like tubers (c); native and Brazilian elodeas will not.

* Native elodeas look similar to Brazilian elodea and hydrilla, but benefit our waterways.

You can help!

- **Report new sightings**—use identification tips inside this card; note exact location, take photo if possible and contact your local natural resource agency by calling **1-877-STOP ANS (1-877-786-7267)**.
- **Remove plants and mud** (which may contain hydrilla tubers) from boat, motor, trailer and equipment before leaving a water body.
- **Dispose** of unwanted aquarium or water garden plants in the trash.
- **Rinse** plant purchases to remove mud, unwanted plant fragments and other hitchhikers.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

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