

Have you seen an AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT lurking in a lake, pond, river, or stream or hitchhiking on a boat, trailer, or other recreational gear?

Curly-leaf Pondweed

Characteristics:

- Leaves are somewhat stiff and crinkled, approx. 1/2-inch wide, 2 to 3 inches long
- Leaves arranged alternately around the stem, becoming more dense toward the end of branches
- Has small "teeth" along edge of leaf



Credit: B. Wahlstrom

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Characteristics:

- Feather-like leaves with blunt ends commonly with 12 to 24 pairs of leaflets on each leaf
- Leaves are grouped in whorls (circles) of 3 to 6 leaves around stem



Credit: R. Johnson

European Naiad

Characteristics:

- Leaves are lime green, very slender, 1-2 inches long with 6-15 "teeth" along edge
- Leaves are usually opposite of each other with wide base that tapers to a tip
- The brittle, recurved leaves branch profusely at stem



Credit: D. Cameron

Fanwort

Credit: NH DES



Characteristics:

- Underwater leaves approx. 2 inches across, divided into fine branches with fan shape
- Submerged parts slimy
- Flowering branches grow above surface are small and diamond-shaped

Hydrilla

Credit: R. Videkii



Characteristics:

- Small leaves (3/4 inch) are bright green and pointed with "toothed" edges
- 3 to 10 leaves arranged in a whorl (circle) around stem
- branches profusely at surface

Variable Milfoil

Credit: NH DES



Characteristics:

- Stems are thick and often red
- Submerged leaves finely divided, resembling a feather
- Leaves in whorls (circles) of 4 to 6 around the stem

Water Chestnut



Characteristics:

- Surface leaves are waxy and triangular with toothed edges
- Submerged leaves are feathery and whorled around stalk
- Stems can grow up to 16 ft.
- Forms dense, floating mats
- Nut-like fruit with 2-4 spines

Invasive species can ruin the health & enjoyment of NH's waters—help pull the plug on their spread!

**Always CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY your boat, trailer & gear between waterbodies.
Keep all drain plugs open/out while trailering.**

Report potential invasive species sightings to: NH Dept. of Environmental Services (603.271.2248).



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Credit: E. DeBolt

Asian Clam

Characteristics:

- Shells greenish-yellow to brown with thick concentric rings
- Thick symmetrical shell
- Up to 2 inches long
- Inside of shell is smooth and polished with a light purple tinge

Chinese Mystery Snail

Characteristics:

- Can grow up 2.5 inches
- Large, smooth, olive green shell
- No color bands on shell
- White and blue inner shell
- 6-7 convex whorls on top of shell
- Black round or oval outer lip
- Can seal its opening shut with a "trapdoor"



Credit: PA DCNR



Credit: C. Culver



Credit: J.E. Marsden

Quagga Mussel

Characteristics:

- Bivalve up to up to 0.8 inch wide and more than 2 inches in length
- Byssal threads (or ropes) are on the hinge edge of its shell
- Shell usually has dark concentric rings
- Shell color is paler near the hinge
- When laid on edge, shell topples over



Credit: E. DeBolt



Multiple spiny water fleas on a fishing line

Spiny Water Flea

Characteristics:

- Grows up to 0.6 inches long
- Long, straight tail spine is twice as long as body
- On a fishing line, spiny water fleas look like bristly gobs of jelly with black spots



Zebra Mussel

Characteristics:

- Small, fingernail-sized animals that attach to solid surfaces in water
- Adults are 1/4 to 1-1/2 inches long and have D-shaped shells, often with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes
- Shell is stable when placed on its flattened hinge side

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