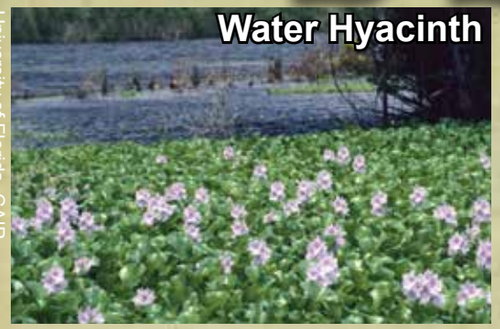
BEWARE



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Eichhornia crassipes

Origin: Amazon Basin, South America

- Free floating
- Leaves shiny green, leathery, and oval with gently incurved sides that stand erect
- Leaf veins are dense and numerous
- Spongy thick stalks
- Purple flowers with six petals
- Roots are dark and feathery

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Salvinia molesta

Origin: Brazil

- Free floating
- Small, oblong, spongy, green leaves in whorls of three; two floating and one submerged
- Margins of mature plants curl inward
- Leaf surface has rows of hairs that, when magnified, are eggbeater shaped. Hairs give the leaves a velvety appearance and repel water
- No flowers

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Pistia stratiotes

Origin: Amazon Basin, South America

- Free floating
- Resembles a floating open head of lettuce
- Leaves are thick, hairy, ridged, and pale green
- Leaf margins are wavy (with top margins scalloped)
- No leaf stems
- Flowers are inconspicuous
- Fruit is a green berry
- Numerous feathery roots hang submerged beneath leaves

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Hydrilla verticillata

Origin: China/Asia

- Submerged perennial
- Stems are slender and branched, covered with small pointed, often serrated, leaves arranged in whorls of four to eight
- Leaf midribs are often reddish with one or more sharp spines
- Branching stems reach the surface and form dense mats
- Small white flowers

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Salvinia minima

Origin: South and Central America

- Free floating fern
- Similar in appearance to giant salvinia, except has stiff leaf hairs with branches free at the tips
- Root-like structures hang below the surface
- No flowers

USDA Robert H. Mohlenrock

Alternanthera philoxeroides

Origin: South America

- Emerged perennial
- Long, branched, hollow stems
- Leaves are simple, elliptic, and opposite with smooth margins
- Solitary white flowers that grows on stalks during warm months
- Fibrous roots

Aquatic Invasive Plants

Identifying and Preventing Aquatic Invasive Plants in Louisiana

www.wlf.la.gov

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Aquatic Invasive Plants Can Cause Serious Environmental and Economical Harm

Impacts

Reduce or eliminate native fish, bird, and plant populations
- Out-compete native plants
- Alter fish habitat
- Reduce waterfowl habitat and food

Clog waterways
- Limit boating and fishing access

Alter water quality
- Cause changes in pH
- Reduce dissolved oxygen
- Increase temperature

A Louisiana waterbody plagued by giant salvinia.

Control Efforts

There are various control methods that have been used to combat the spread of invasive plant species . Each one has pros and cons in its ability to treat infested waterbodies.

	Pros	Cons
CHEMICAL		
Herbicides	✔ Quick treatment, effective, can improve fish habitat	✘ Costly; weather dependent
BIOLOGICAL		
Alligator Weed Flea Beetle	✔ Can thin and limit alligator weed growth to allow navigation in previously inaccessible areas	✘ Localized effectiveness only during parts of growing season
Salvinia Weevil	✔ Species-specific insects that feed on the buds of common and giant salvinia and whose larvae tunnel into the rhizomes of the plant causing it to die and sink	✘ This is a long-term control measure that can take several years; very intolerant of cold temperatures
Tripold Grass Carp	✔ Sterile, non-reproducing grass carp which consume submerged aquatic vegetation	✘ Not specific in the vegetation it consumes; older, bigger fish are not as effective
MECHANICAL		
Drawdowns	✔ Cheap, effective, and can improve fish habitat	✘ Require dry conditions and long time frame; restricts boating access
Physical Removal	✔ Can target specific areas; available on windy days or when other options are not available	✘ Extremely labor intensive

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How Can You Help?

Preventing new introductions is the best and most cost-effective way to control the impacts of invasive species. Fortunately, there are a few simple actions you can take to prevent their spread:

INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment. Remove any visible plants, animals, or mud before leaving a waterbody.

REMOVE unwanted bait from boat, live well, or bucket. **DISCARD IN TRASH, NOT WATER!**

DRAIN water from your boat, motor, live well, and bilge before leaving a waterbody.

RINSE and **DRY** your boat, trailer, and fishing equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when you left a waterbody. Before going to another water body, rinse boat and trailer with hot (104 degrees) water or allow boat and trailer to dry for at least five days.

Learn to identify aquatic nuisance species and report any new infestations to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at (225) 765-2328.

Invest in the Future...Geaux Fish Louisiana!

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