# **INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!**

# **BRAZILIAN ELODEA**

(Egeria densa)

# **HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?**

## **DESCRIPTION**

- Native to South America
- Submerged, freshwater perennial herb
- Grows rooted or free-floating up to 6.5 m deep
- Trailing, irregularly branched, solitary stems (3 m long) form dense mats
- Whorls of usually 4 finely serrated, bright green leaves, spaced by short internodes giving a 'leafy' appearance
- Fibrous roots develop at nodes bearing lateral branches
- Flowers have 3 green sepals and white petals, floating or rising above the water surface on slender stalks
- Prefers slow-moving freshwater bodies, with low light, at temperatures ranging from 10 to 25°C.
- Reproduces solely by stem fragmentation in North America; stem fragments containing a double node can form a new plant
- Local dispersal mainly by water currents. Intentional importation for planting, boats and related equipment are the primary sources for long distance spread

PRIMARY THREAT: Inhibits irrigation, drainage and hydroelectric operations. Drastically alters aquatic ecosystems.

# www.seagrant.wisc.edu

## **REPORT PROHIBITED SPECIES**

www.reportaweedbc.ca

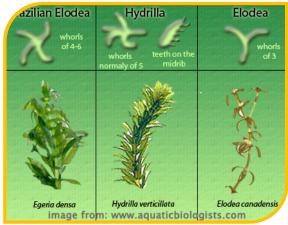
**1-888-WEEDSBC** 



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Seeds and/or female flowers have never been reported from Brazilian elodea populations established in the United States.
- Brazilian elodea, commonly sold under the alias Anacharis spp., is thought to be the most universally available aquarium plant on the market.

**Lookalikes**: Native common waterweed, and **invasive hydrilla**:



## **DISTRIBUTION IN BC**

Confirmed in only two waterbodies in B.C, Richmond drainage waterway in Metro Vancouver and Glen Lake in Greater Victoria.



For more information: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm