

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## HYDRILLA

(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to Africa, Asia and Australia
- Submerged, freshwater perennial herb
- Grows rooted (occasionally detached and floating)
- Erect, branching stems (0.8 mm to 1 mm thick)
- Whorls of 5 translucent, lance-shaped leaves, with toothed midrib rough to the touch
- Root structure consists of rhizomes tipped with small tubers and horizontal stolons
- Solitary flowers, white and funnel-shaped (2-4 mm long)
- Flowers reach water surface via threadlike stalks (up to 10 cm long)
- Prefers slow-moving freshwater bodies and brackish estuaries
- Reproduces vegetatively by stem fragments, tubers and turions
- Local dispersal mainly by waterfowl, fur bearing wildlife and water currents. Intentional introduction to ornamental water-gardens or aquariums, and unintentional transport on recreational boats are primary sources of long distance spread.



**PRIMARY THREAT: Restricts flow in waterways and drastically alters fish habitat.**

#### DID YOU KNOW?

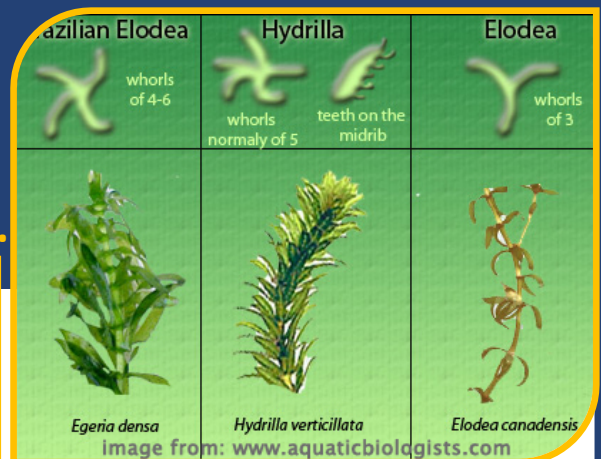
- Hydrilla can be distinguished from look-alikes by the presence of tubers (0.2 to 0.4 inch long, off-white to yellowish, pea-like structures buried in the sediment). Brazilian elodea and waterweed do not have tubers.
- Stem fragments consisting of a single node are capable of regrowth and survival in natural areas.



### REPORT PROHIBITED SPECIES

[www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)

1-888-WEEDSBC



**Lookalikes:** Invasive Brazilian elodea, native common waterweed, and Nuttall's elodea

#### DISTRIBUTION IN BC

There are **NO** confirmed occurrences in BC.



For more information: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm)