



January 2022

Aquatic Invasive Species Found in RI Lakes

Find more information @ <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/quality/surface-water/aisplant.php>
Pictures taken at various scales to show basic shape and form of plant parts. See text or items for size reference (fingers, pen, ruler etc.)

Floating-leaved Invasive Plants - Rooted in Sediment

Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)



Seeds

Floating Leaves

- ☛ Triangle-shaped
- ☛ Many arranged in circular rosette
- ☛ Toothed edges
- ☛ Shiny finish
- ☛ Feathery leaves are underwater on stem

Flowers (July)

- ☛ Colored white
- ☛ Size of pencil eraser
- ☛ 4 petals
- ☛ Center of rosette

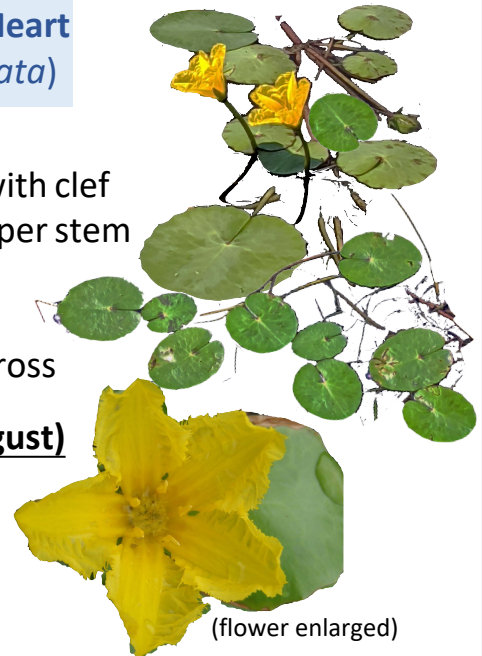
Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)

Floating Leaves

- ☛ Circular shape with clef
- ☛ Multiple leaves per stem
- ☛ Scalloped edges
- ☛ Shiny finish
- ☛ 2 to 6 inches across

Flowers (July-August)

- ☛ Colored yellow
- ☛ 1-1.5 inches
- ☛ 5 petals
- ☛ Frilly edges



(flower enlarged)

Sacred Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*)



Floating Leaves

- ☛ Complete circle
- ☛ Smooth edges
- ☛ One per stem
- ☛ Stem is in center
- ☛ Velvet texture
- ☛ Up to 3 feet wide

Flowers (August)

- ☛ Colored pink
- ☛ About 18 petals
- ☛ Yellow cone center

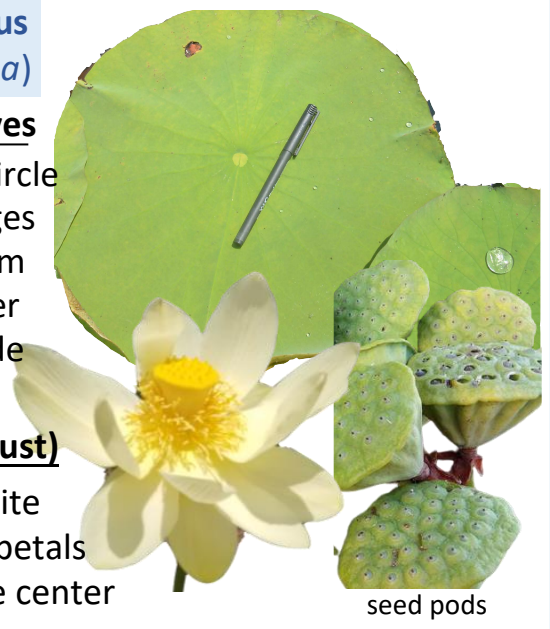
American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*)

Floating Leaves

- ☛ Complete circle
- ☛ Smooth edges
- ☛ One per stem
- ☛ Repels water
- ☛ 1-2 feet wide

Flowers (August)

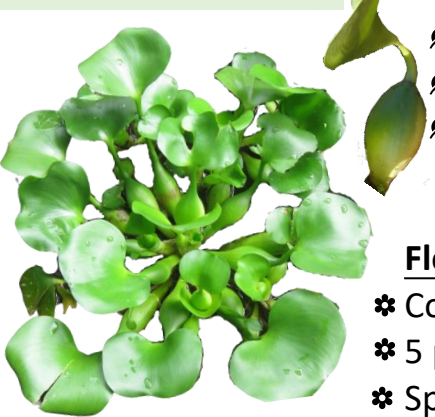
- ☛ Colored white
- ☛ At least 20 petals
- ☛ Yellow cone center



seed pods

Free-Floating Invasive Plants (NOT Rooted in Sediment)

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)



Floating Leaves

- ☛ Pringle (TM) Shaped
- ☛ Smooth edges
- ☛ Glossy finish
- ☛ Wide, buoyant float at base of stem

Flowers (July)

- ☛ Colored purple
- ☛ 5 petals
- ☛ Spike with many flowers



Inflated Bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*)

Underwater Leaves

- ☛ Thread-like, finely branched
- ☛ Look like free-floating roots
- ☛ Have carnivorous bladders

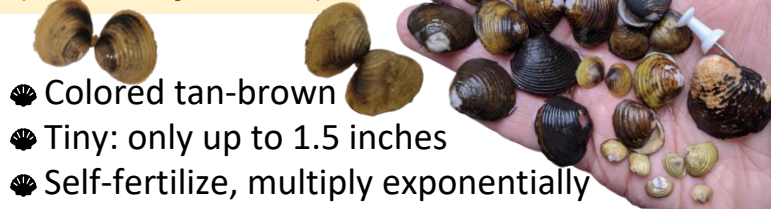
Flowers (May-June)

- ☛ Snapdragon shape
- ☛ Colored yellow, dime-size
- ☛ 5-7 per tall stem held above water
- ☛ Stem sits atop snowflake-like float



Underwater Invasive Invertebrates

Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)



- ☛ Colored tan-brown
- ☛ Tiny: only up to 1.5 inches
- ☛ Self-fertilize, multiply exponentially
- ☛ Larvae are microscopic and free-swimming

Mystery Snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)



- ☛ Colored brown – black
- ☛ Large: up to 2 inches
- ☛ Can spread parasites
- ☛ Can reproduce quickly



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Underwater, Rooted Plants with Thin, Feather-like Leaves

Variable Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)

Leaves

- ☛ Densely packed along stem
- ☛ 4-6 leaves attach to stem at same spot ("whorl")
- ☛ Thick, red stem

Emergent Flower Spike

- ☛ Bracts are blade shaped
- ☛ Leaf-bracts are jagged
- ☛ White, miniscule flowers
- ☛ Stick 2-4 inches above water

Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Leaves

- ☛ Openly spaced along stem
- ☛ 4 leaves attach to stem at same spot in "whorl"
- ☛ Flimsy, spaghetti-like stem

Emergent Flower Spike

- ☛ Spike is 1-2 inches long
- ☛ Many tiny flowers, 1-3 mm
- ☛ Flowers colored pink-purple
- ☛ Stick 1-2 inches above water

Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Leaves

- ☛ Muted pea green
- ☛ Rubbery texture
- ☛ Whorls of 4-6 leaves
- ☛ Leaf looks like a feather
- ☛ Maintains shape out of water
- ☛ Grows above the water surface

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)

Leaves

- ☛ Bright green
- ☛ Fan shape
- ☛ Pairs of 2 leaves

Flowers (July-Sept)

- ☛ 6 petals
- ☛ Colored white
- ☛ Size of pencil eraser
- ☛ Yellow center
- ☛ Stick out ~1 inch above water

Underwater, Rooted Plants with Whole, Blade-like Leaves

Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*)

Leaves

- ☛ Leaves 1-3 cm long
- ☛ Linear, blade shape
- ☛ Jagged edges
- ☛ Densely packed whorls along stem
- ☛ Whorls (4-6 leaves)

Flowers

- ☛ 3 petals
- ☛ Colored white
- ☛ Yellow center
- ☛ Pencil eraser-sized

Mudmat (*Glossostigma cleistanthum*)

Leaves

- ☛ 0.5-1.5 inches long
- ☛ 2 leaves opposite on stem
- ☛ Look like rabbit ears
- ☛ Can be submersed or terrestrial

Flowers

- ☛ Colored white
- ☛ 5 petals
- ☛ Rare to find
- ☛ Submersed

Spiny Naiad (*Najas minor*)

Leaves

- ☛ 1-1.5 inches long
- ☛ Jagged edges, stiff
- ☛ Leaves opposite
- ☛ Maintains shape out of water
- ☛ Stems branch profusely at top
- ☛ Leaves arched back

Curly-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Leaves

- ☛ 1.5 - 2 inches long
- ☛ Leaves have wavy edges like bacon
- ☛ Veins have stained glass-like appearance
- ☛ Alternate attachment of leaves along stem
- ☛ Reddish tinge