

# Water Gardens & Invasive Plants FACT SHEET

## WHAT ARE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES?

They are **non-native** plants, animals, and pathogens that live primarily in **water**, can rapidly thrive in a **new environment**, and cause economic **loss**, environmental **damage**, or **harm** to human health.

## HOW CAN I MINIMIZE THE RISK OF INTRODUCING INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES?

- Freeze unwanted plants, put in trash or burn.
- Never put cuttings or unwanted plants in compost, seeds can survive.
- Never dump unwanted plants or plant pieces into a water body.
- Create water gardens only in areas cut off from waterways to avoid accidental release.
- Use native plant species.
- Know where your plants are coming from and that they are properly identified.
- Know local, state, and federal laws.

## EXAMPLES OF INVASIVE PLANTS FOUND IN WATER GARDENS AND AQUARIA THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED

Curly Leaf Pondweed



Brazilian Water-Weed



Fanwort



Parrotfeather



# PROHIBITED AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS IN CONNECTICUT\*

## Common name

## Scientific name

Flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
Pond water-starwort	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>
Brazilian water-weed	<i>Egeria densa</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Yellow iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
European watercress	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>
Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
Parrotfeather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Variable-leaf watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Brittle water-nymph	<i>Najas minor</i>
Onerow yellowcress	<i>Nasturtium microphyllum</i>
Watercress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>
American water lotus	<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>
Yellow floating heart	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>
Crispy-leaved pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>

\* If you don't live in CT – check your state laws

## TIPS ON BUYING AQUATIC PLANTS

- Choose a reputable local nursery, store, catalog, or Internet site.
- Ask if the vendor knows which species are state and federally banned.
- Make sure you don't have unwanted plants or animals attached to your purchase by rinsing plants in a light-colored bucket of tap water until they are clean, looking for snails and plant fragments.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT DISPOSAL GUIDE

[http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu/pdfs/Aquatic\\_Invasive\\_Plant\\_Disposal\\_Guide4-2011.pdf](http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu/pdfs/Aquatic_Invasive_Plant_Disposal_Guide4-2011.pdf)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Aquarium hobbyists / Water Gardeners: [www.habitattitude.net](http://www.habitattitude.net)  
Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group: [www.cipwg.uconn.edu](http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu)

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