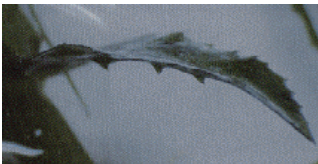


# Aquatic Weed Fact Sheet

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**Hydrilla**  
**Hydrilla verticillata**  
**Federal Noxious Weed**

This underwater aquatic plant has continued to spread throughout North Carolina, infestations were found in the mountains and western piedmont in 1999. Hydrilla is characterized by leaves in whorls of (usually) 3 to 6, which are strap shaped, 5/8 inches long have saw-like serrations on the margins, and sometimes have spines or bumps on the underside of the midvein.



*Hydrilla* is often confused with another invasive exotic, Brazilian Elodea (*Elgeria densa*) and two native species of American Elodea (*Elodea spp.*).

*Hydrilla verticillata*, which is prohibited in the United States by Federal law, has invaded water bodies across the United States. Hydrilla can spread rapidly by fragmentation and produces numerous tubers in the hydrosol and turions in the leaf axils; these reproductive structures allow the plant to survive drawdowns and cold winters. It forms dense surface mats, which interfere with boating, fishing and recreational activities as well as degrade water quality by reducing oxygen levels and displacing desirable plant species.



For Additional information visit our web site at:  
<http://www.cropsci.ncsu.edu/aquaticweeds>