How to recognize Hydrilla

Hydrilla is a rapidly-growing invasive aquatic plant with small, bright green, finely-toothed or serrated leaves that occur in whorls of 3-8 leaves around a central stem.

Hydrilla reproduces from small, dense, potato-like tubers that can live in the lake sediment up to 9 years.

Leaf whorls of 3-8 emerge at nodes spaced along the stem.

Leaves have serrated "sawtooth" edges that can be seen with the naked eye and feel rough to the touch.

Tubers

Hydrilla History

Hydrilla has invaded thousands of lakes and streams across the United States and has cost the US economy billions of dollars to manage and control. Hydrilla can grow up to 4" a day, choking out beneficial native plants. Hydrilla can grow in both shallow and deep waters, branching heavily at the surface reducing the amount of open water available for fish, wildlife, waterfowl, and people. Lakes with infestations of Hydrilla can no longer support recreational activities like boating, swimming, or fishing. Sport fish found in other lakes where Hydrilla is the dominant vegetation were found to be smaller in weight and size than those same species of fish from non-Hydrilla infested lakes.

Since 1994, Hydrilla has been actively treated and surveyed by California Department Food & Agriculture (CDFA) every year. Management and treatment efforts have been successful with zero reported findings of Hydrilla during 2017 and 2018. In 2019, a single fragment was discovered in the Clear Lake Keys in the Oaks Arm. CDFA crews remain vigilant in their monitoring to locate additional plants and prevent the spread throughout the rest of the lake.

Currently, the Lake County Water Resources and CDFA, wish for your help in reporting any observed Hydrilla fragments or populations, so that together, we can implement fast action to keep Clear Lake clear of this harmful and destructive invasive plant species.
Help keep Clear Lake Hydrilla-free!

**DO** Clean, Drain, Dry all boats, fishing gear and equipment, kayaks, canoes, and water toys before using them in Clear Lake. Before entering / leaving Clear Lake remove all plant material from boats and trailers and put all plant fragments in the trash.

**DO** participate in the Lake County Mussel Sticker Program - check it out at www.nomussels.com. By participating in this program you can assure your boat will be clean of both invasive mussels AND invasive plants such as Hydrilla.

**DO** report any suspected Hydrilla fragments or populations to Lake County Water Resources Department. It's best to send the location, date, and a clear picture via email water.resources@lakecountyca.gov or send a direct message on facebook @lakecountywater

**DON'T** empty plants and animals from your aquarium or garden pond into natural waterbodies, storm drains, ditches or down the drain. Put them in the trash or bring them back into the pet store or a nearby nursery.

For more information contact:

Lake County Water Resources Department
255 N Forbes St. Lakeport, CA 95453
P: (707)263-2344
E: WATER.RESOURCES@LAKECOUNTYCA.GOV
FB: @LAKECOUNTYWATER

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control
Hydrilla Program
3294 Meadowview Rd. Sacramento, CA 95832
P: (916)654-0768 PEST HOTLINE: 1-800-491-1899
E: IPCINFO@CDFA.CA.GOV