Early detection and monitoring of invasive aquatic plants in Oregon

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Why early detection and monitoring are important
Dense growth of invasive aquatic plants (IAPs) in our lakes and reservoirs often leads to fewer native aquatic plant species, degraded water quality, poor wildlife habitat, impaired recreation, and decreased property values. Early detection of new infestations leaves better, and often less expensive opportunities for management.

What we do
Because of these impacts, the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s (ODA) Noxious Weed Control Program has funded the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs (CLR) to conduct early detection surveys for IAPs, train citizen volunteers to detect and report IAPs, and provide support for IAP related issues.

Which invasive aquatic plants are most problematic
ODA has designated 23 IAP’s on their noxious weed list including three of the four species pictured below. ODA’s list include 12 species with high economic importance where eradication or containment is possible if found (A-list species, e.g. *Hydrilla verticillata*) and 11 economically important species that are locally abundant in some areas, but may warrant local management where less common (B-list species, e.g. *Myriophyllum spicatum*).

What you can do
• Take precautions to prevent the spread of IAPs. Information on best practices are available at www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/clean-drain-dry
• Learn to identify aquatic plants. CLR’s Oregon Lake Watch Program holds aquatic plant identification training sessions several time a year (www.pdx.edu/oregon-lake-watch)
• Take pictures of key plant characteristics and report what you see. You can report suspicious plants to oregoninvasiveshotline.org or 1-866-INVADER. If you use iNaturalist, contact me “richm” with your observations.
• Contact me: richm@pdx.edu