

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org) or 1-866-INVADER. If you use iNaturalist, contact me "richm" with your observations.
- Contact me: [richm@pdx.edu](mailto:richm@pdx.edu)



Water primroses (*Ludwigia hexapetala* and *Ludwigia peploides*) - ODA Class B emergent species common in the Willamette Basin, especially off-channel habitats. Water primroses form extremely dense monocultures and are the subject of extensive management actions. Water primroses are also present in the Rogue River basin. Photo by Rich Miller



Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) - an ODA Class A emergent plant first found in the Columbia River near Hermiston in 2014. Currently present downstream into Lake Umatilla and at a single site in Klamath County. This species is a focus of treatment efforts by ODA, USACE and others. "Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by Jeremy Halls



Variable leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) - a non-native submerged aquatic plant found in three mid- and south- Oregon coast lakes (Siltcoos, Tahkenitch, and Floras lakes). The species forms dense monocultures in shallow water, appears to be spreading through the coastal region. It is a candidate for ODA noxious weed listing. Photo by Rich Miller



Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) - an ODA Class B listed species recently found in the Metolius arm of Lake Billy Chinook. Hybrids with native *M. sibiricum* have been confirmed in Howard Prairie Reservoir, the Lost River Pool (Klamath Co.) and the Chewaucan River. Photo by Rich Miller