

Brazilian elodea

Egeria densa

Description

This species is listed on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list. Most easily surveyed in summer and fall, when its flowers, which distinguish it from other Elodea species and Hydrilla, are present.

Habit

Aquatic; submergent; rooted plant.

Leaves

Oblong or broadly linear, whorls of 4-6, bright green in color.

Stems

Range from 0.3-0.6 m (1-2 ft); occasionally to 6 m (20 ft); May be simple or branched.

Flowers

White in color, 3 petals, 3 cm (0.75 in) across, petals much larger than sepals; held above the water on slender stems.

Fruits and Seeds





Fruit berry-like; uncommon.

Habitat

Native to South America. Found in still or slow-moving waters, including ponds, lakes, rivers and streams.

Reproduction

Fragments dispersed by waterfowl and boats.

Similar

Can be mistaken for Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*) or Western waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Large infestations can be controlled with herbicides. Fluridone is most effective, but mixtures with diquat or endothall salts with complex copper mixtures can also be effective. Because it spread through vegetative reproduction, harvesting is not recommended. Water drawdown may be effective. Aquarium plants should not be discarded into or near a water body.

Credits

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