



Cataraqi
conservation

Invasive Species Monitoring and Garden Considerations

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Lake Links: October 18, 2025



Topics

- Act Fast
- Applications for ID and Monitoring
- Newcomers
- Garden plants to avoid

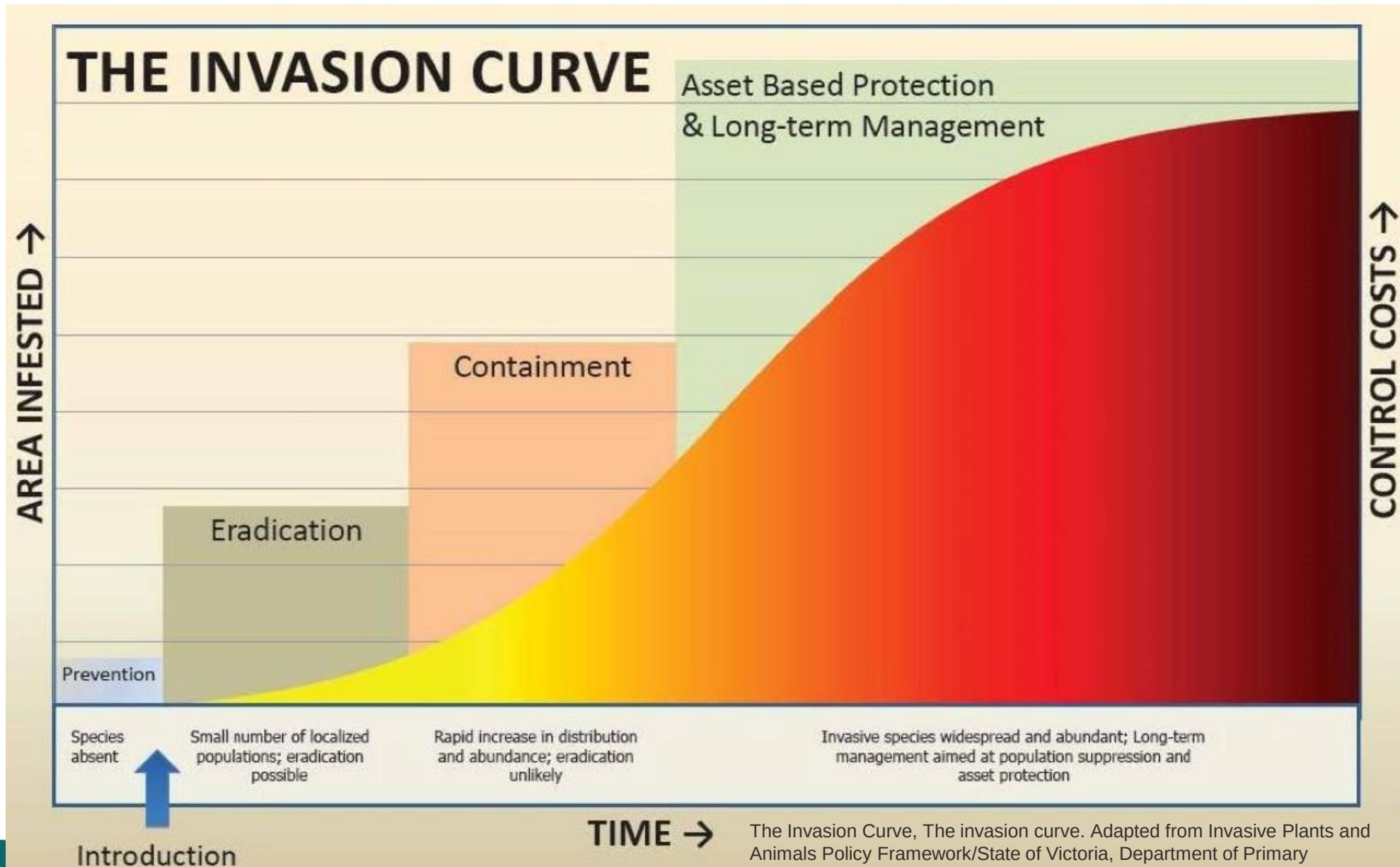


Get Ahead of the Curve

Eradication widow: shortly after introduction and before initial populations grow and spread

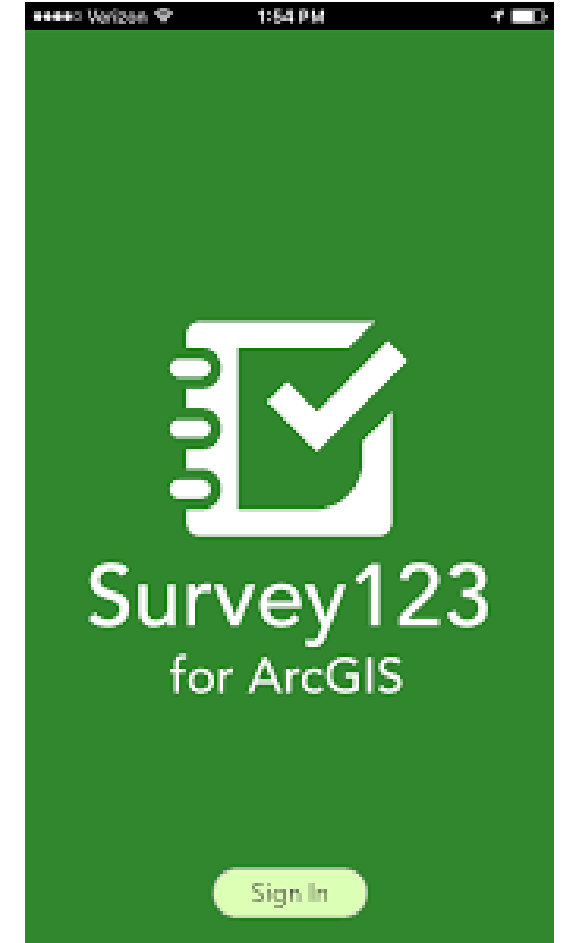
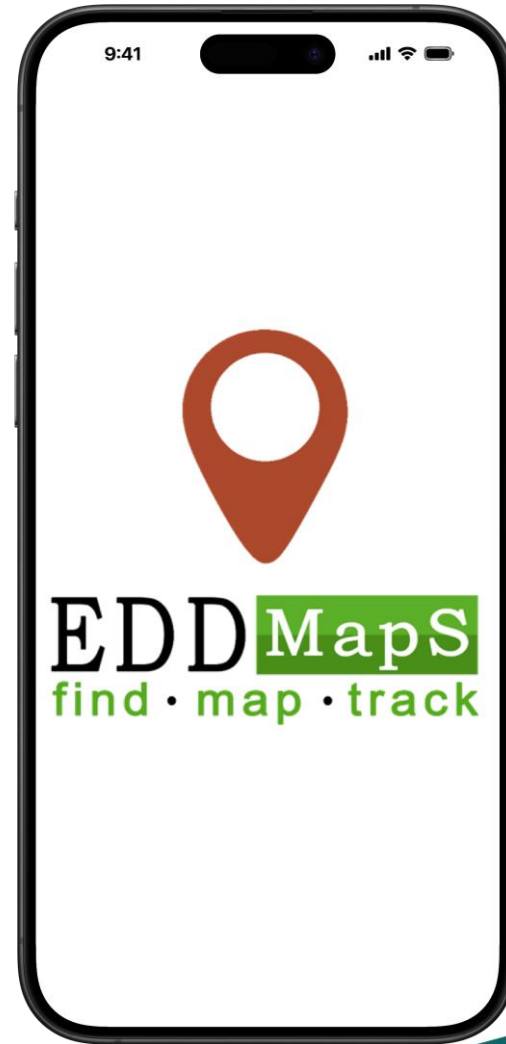
Early detection matters.

Never seen it before? Take a moment to investigate



Tools to Help with Identification and Reporting

seek 
by iNaturalist



Newer Arrivals: Water soldier

Floating



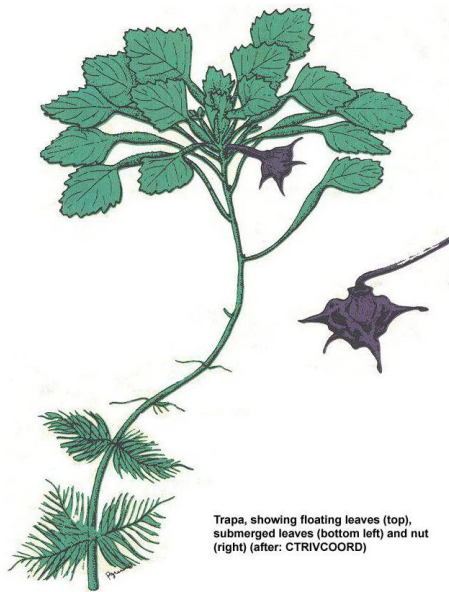
Submerged



Sharp, Serrated Leaves



Newer Arrivals: European water chestnut



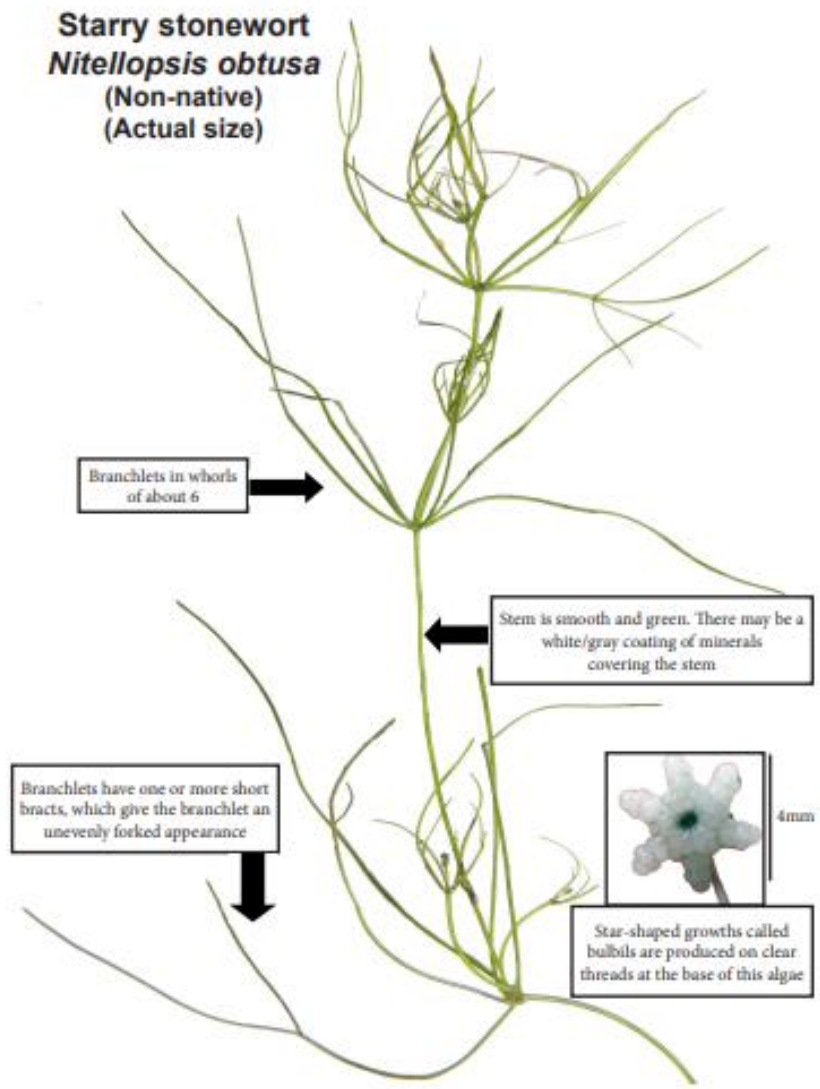
Trapa, showing floating leaves (top), submerged leaves (bottom left) and nut (right) (after: CTRIVCOORD)

Photo: New York Invasive Species Information



Photo: Ontario's Invasive Species Awareness Program

Newer Arrivals: Starry Stonewort



Starry Trek Reference Guide

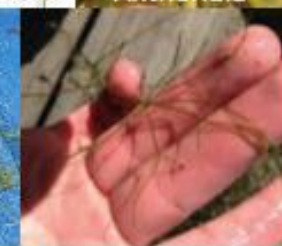


AIS DETECTORS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Starry stonewort keys to ID:

- Grass-like appearance
- Smooth, thin stems
- Branchlets in whorls of 5-8
- Forked tips of branchlets are asymmetrical
- Star-shaped bulbils may be observed
- Small, orange spheres (antheridia) may be present

Starry stonewort photos © Paul Skawinski, Nicole Kayor, Dave Hansen, Minnesota DNR, Larkin Lab



Native lookalikes:

<i>Chara</i> (muskgrass)	<i>Nitella</i> (stonewort)	Sago pondweed	Water stargrass
- Rough stems - Musky odor - Branchlets not forked at tips	- Branchlets symmetrically forked - Appears limp out of water	- Leaves branch profusely - Clusters of egg-shaped fruit may be present	- Alternate leaves - Narrow, flat leaves

Native photos © Paul Skawinski, UW-Extension

Newer Arrivals: Hydrilla

		
Hydrilla • 4-8 leaves per leaf whorl • Leaf margins serrated • Mid-rib teeth • Feels rough when pulled through hand	Brazilian Egeria • 3-6 leaves per leaf whorl • Leaf serrations very fine • No mid-rib teeth • Feels smooth when pulled through hand	Canadian Waterweed • Always 3 leaves • Leaf margins smooth • No mid-rib teeth • Feels smooth when pulled through hand

INVASIVE



Michael J. Grodowitz, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

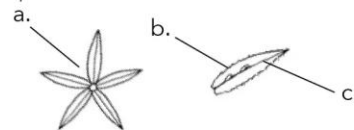


HYDRILLA

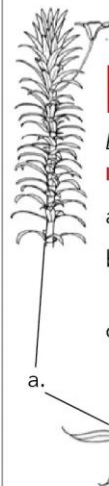
Hydrilla verticillata

INVASIVE

- a. whorls of **more than** 3 leaves
- b. leaves often have **visibly toothed** edge
- c. leaf vein often has **small visible spines**



Christian Fischer, www.commons.wikimedia.org

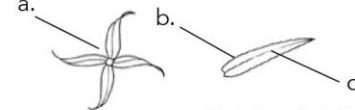


BRAZILIAN ELODEA

Egeria densa

INVASIVE

- a. whorls of **more than** 3 leaves
- b. leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge
- c. leaf vein is **smooth** underneath



Illustrations: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida

NATIVE



Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest

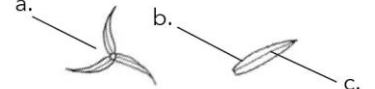


AMERICAN ELODEA

Elodea canadensis

NATIVE

- a. whorls of **exactly** 3 leaves
- b. leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge
- c. leaf vein is **smooth** underneath



Gardens Gone Rouge

- Gardens can become ecosystem disrupters
- Not all non-native plants become invasives
- Safest choices are native plants. [Grow Me Instead](#)
- Common problem plants:
 - Dames rocket
 - Goutweed
 - Himalayan balsam
 - Honeysuckle
 - Lily of the valley
 - Periwinkle
 - Silver grass
 - Yellow Iris and Orange daylily

Help stop leafy invaders

Invasive

Instead of goutweed...
white turtlehead

Instead of Himalayan balsam...
spotted Joe-Pye weed

Instead of periwinkle...
bearberry

Instead of common orange daylily
wood lily

Native



Thank You

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