

Invasive plant is a big problem for lakes and ponds

Brazilian Elodea in Lake County, IL

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LakeCounty

Health Department and
Community Health Center

Overview

- What is Brazilian Elodea
 - Identification
 - What are similar species
 - Where does it come from
 - Why it is bad
 - How does it get around
- Lake County's experience
 - What was/is being done

Identification

- Leaves
 - Finely toothed
 - Arranged in whorls of 4 – 6
 - 1 – 3 cm long and up to 5 mm wide
- Branches formed at double nodes
- Small flower has 3 white petals and yellow center



Similar Species

- American Elodea
 - Native
 - Leaves
 - Arranged in whorls of 3 (occasionally 4)
 - 6 – 15 mm long and 1.5 – 4 mm wide
- Hydrilla
 - Exotic
 - Toothed midrib
 - Leaves
 - Arranged in whorls of 5







Brazilian Elodea	Hydrilla	Elodea
 <p>whorls of 4-6</p>  <p><i>Egeria densa</i></p>	 <p>whorls normally of 5 teeth on the midrib</p>  <p><i>Hydrilla verticillata</i></p>	 <p>whorls of 3</p>  <p><i>Elodea canadensis</i></p>

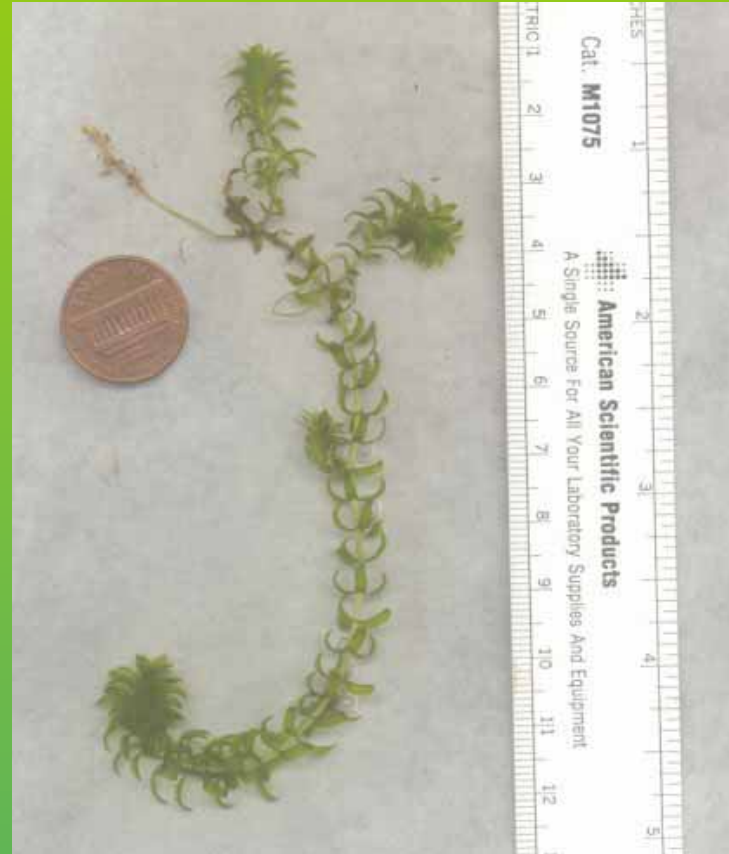
Image courtesy of www.thewildclassroom.com

Brazilian Elodea vs. American Elodea

Brazilian
Elodea



American
Elodea



Where does it come from?

- Native to South America
- Distributed in United States
 - As Anacharis
 - Aquarium/aquatic nurseries
- Spreading to Midwest lakes and streams
- Until 2008, only known in 17 counties in Midwest and Ontario

Why is it bad?

- Could be the next Eurasian Watermilfoil!!
- Very invasive
- Decline in water quality
- Restrict water movement
- Reduce native plants
- Interfere with navigational and recreational uses

How does it get around?

- Released from aquariums
- Hitch-hiker on water garden plants
- Birds
- Boats/trailers
- Moves down stream
- Reproduces by fragmentation
 - Only male flowers in U.S. = no seeds
 - Must have double node



The Lake County Experience

- Discovered during the summer of 2008
- In detention ponds in the Village of Libertyville
- Consulting firm (Integrated Lakes Management) was doing routine pond maintenance
- ILM reported it to the New Invaders Watch Program
- Identification was confirmed by the Illinois Natural History Survey

The Lake County Experience



The Lake County Experience

- On January 22, 2009 the LCHD-ES conducted a site visit
- Found it actively growing under 8” of snow covered ice









The Lake County Experience

- Coordinated with various groups
 - Village of Libertyville
 - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 - Lake County Forest Preserve District
 - Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant
 - Midwest Invasive Plant Network
 - Integrated Lakes Management
 - Lake County Health Department – Environmental Services

The Lake County Experience

- Drafted a press release
- Mailed letters and informational material to all residents in the area along with all of our lake contacts



The Lake County Experience

- Village of Libertyville is working with an applicator to treat the ponds
 - High dose Floridone
 - Monitored throughout summer
 - Conducted bump-up and spot treatments as needed
 - Continue treatment program through 2010
 - Check the pond in spring of 2011

The Lake County Experience

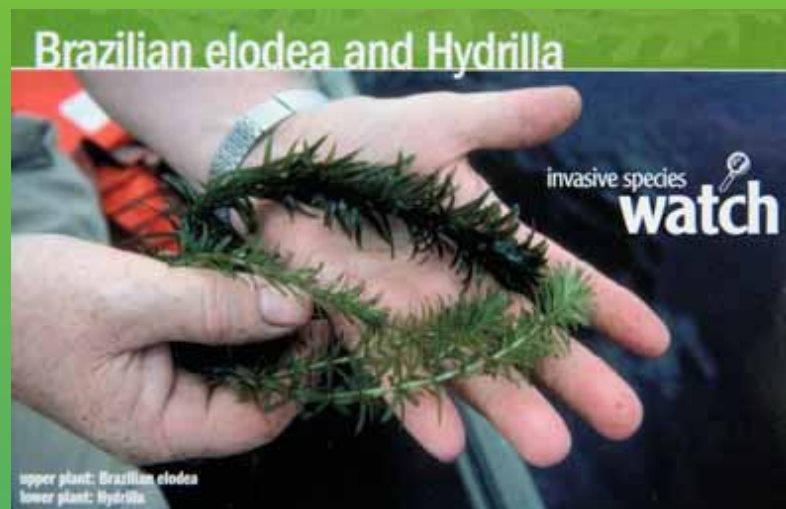
- In the summer of 2009 the LCHD-ES conducted a survey of ponds and area waterbodies
 - Found it still in the large pond
 - Not found in other lakes/ponds/streams



The Lake County Experience

What's Next

- Continue Education
- Continue monitoring
- Support the Village





Questions?