



Lower Connecticut River Hydrilla Invasion - Potential Management Options and Considerations

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Mechanical Harvesting

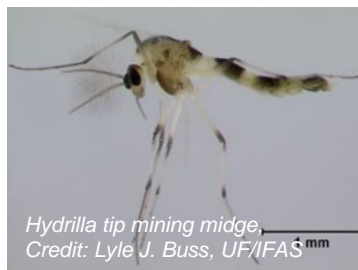
- **Pros:** immediate results; clears specific areas to restore use (marinas, infrastructure, channels); removed plants do not decompose in the water; favorable public perception
- **Cons:** impacts both target and non-target species; by-catch concerns; waste disposal considerations; short-lived growing season control; promotes fragmentation which ultimately increases hydrilla proliferation

Physical Barriers and Benthic Mats

- **Pros:** clears specific areas to restore use (marinas, docks, channels)
- **Cons:** impacts both target and non-target species; not applicable for large areas; impacts to benthic habitats/organisms; gas evolution trapped beneath sheets; difficult to apply in flowing waters; temporary control measure;



Benthic blanket treatment in CT River, 2021 (CAES)



Hydrilla tip mining midge, Credit: Lyle J. Buss, UF/IFAS mm

Biological Control Agents

- **Pros:** Can be species-selective, such as hydrilla flies, or non-selective but effective, such as sterile grass carp; can decrease the amount of herbicide treatments needed
- **Cons:** non-selectivity (sterile grass carp), overwintering of control species in CT is unknown; most target one part of the plant (growing tips, leaves, etc.) rather than whole plant removal

Chemical Control

- **Pros:** can be species-selective; scalable; shown to be successful hydrilla treatment across multiple states and drinking water sources; low fragmentation risk
- **Cons:** Concerns for impacts to non-target species of concern (fish, mussels, birds, etc.); tests on CT River hydrilla strain needed; site-dependent success based on water exchange



Credit: UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

How Can You Help?

- Prevent spread: [Clean→Drain→Dry](#) all boats at ramps and marinas
- Report infestations
- Engage in public meetings and become an active stakeholder

If you have further questions on this project please contact:

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Project StoryMap

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<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>

Project Website