



# Lower Connecticut River Hydrilla Invasion – Phenology Information

Fact Sheet

February 2025

**BUILDING STRONG®**

## Why Study Plant Phenology?

- **Definition:** Plant phenology is the study of plant life cycles and timing of important life stages (e.g., growth, reproduction, senescence)
- Phenological differences between plant species may help explain why invasive plants displace certain native plants
- Understanding invasive plant phenology helps inform the optimal timing of management to maximize plant control and minimize negative impacts on native species and the system

## How is USACE Studying Hydrilla Phenology in the Connecticut River?

- Core samples containing plant material and sediment are collected monthly from a boat.
- Samples are shipped to research laboratories where they are cleaned and sorted
- Plant samples are shipped to the laboratory under appropriate state and Federal noxious weed permits
- Biomass, flowers, turions, and other unique features are documented to determine when during the year they form
- This information will be used to direct herbicide application timing when enough plants are in the water but before reproductive structures are formed

## If you have further questions on this project, please contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District  
By email at: [CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil](mailto:CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil)

## Phenology Sampling Locations

- Mattabesset River
- Deep River
- Selden Cove



a) Collection of Hydrilla phenology sample, bagged and ready to ship to the lab  
b) Hydrilla phenology field sample collection



Project StoryMap

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT**

696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751

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



Project Website