



Lower Connecticut River Hydrilla Invasion – Phenology Information

February 2024

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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?

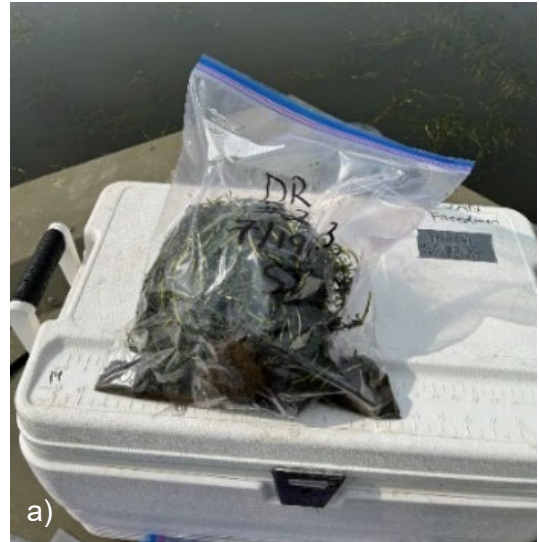
- Core samples containing plant material and sediment are collected monthly from a boat.
- Samples are shipped to research laboratories where they are cleaned and sorted
- Plant samples are shipped to the laboratory under appropriate state and Federal noxious weed permits
- Biomass, flowers, turions, 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

Phenology Sampling Locations

- Mattabeset 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

