**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.

**Phenology Sampling Locations**

- Mattabesset River
- Deep River
- Selden Cove

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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

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**a)** Collection of Hydrilla phenology sample, bagged and ready to ship to the lab

**b)** Hydrilla phenology field sample collection