Fact Sheet

Lower Connecticut River Hydrilla Invasion - Plant and River Information

May 2023

BUILDING STRONG®

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

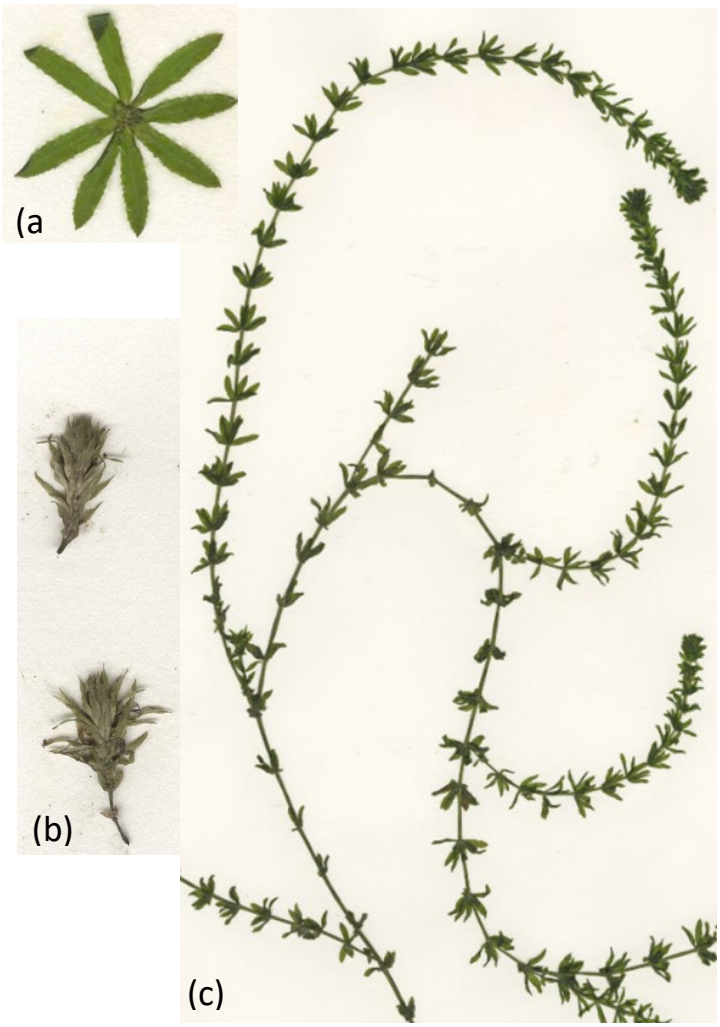
- **Stems:** slender, branched, up to 25 ft long.
- **Leaves**: pointed, serrated edge, barb on leaf underside, grow in whorls of 4-10.
- **Turions**: dormant buds on stems found at leaf axils, freeze-resistant viability (overwinters); prolific production in CT River strain.
- **Subterranean Turions (Tubers)**: potato-like sub-surface root structures, long-term viability (not yet observed in CT River).

CONNECTICUT RIVER INVASION

- First identified in CT River in 2016
- Genetically distinct hydrilla strain
- Rapid growth rate during summer months
- Easily fragmented strands; a single-node fragment can develop a completely new plant; auto-fragments each fall
- Documented hydrilla patches from Agawam, MA to Essex, CT
- Hydrilla Documentary developed by CT Resource Conservation and Development

DOCUMENTED HYDRILLA MAP

Hydrilla surveyed from Connecticut River by CAES in 2021: Invasive Aquatic Plants in the Connecticut River (arcgis.com)



Hydrilla surveyed from Connecticut River by CAES in 2018, and 2019, (a) whorl of leaves; (b) turions; (c) hydrilla fragments. (https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Invasive-Aquatic-Plant-Program/Herbarium/Hydrilla-verticillata)

If you have further questions on this project please contact:
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