

Connecticut River Hydrilla Invasion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connecticut River Invasion Information

- Documented hydrilla patches from Agawam, MA to Essex, CT
- Genetically distinct hydrilla strain, prolific turion production increases reproduction and enables overwintering
- Grows in long, easily fragmented strands; fragments can develop new plants



CT River hydrilla mat, 2019 (CAES)

Environmental Impacts

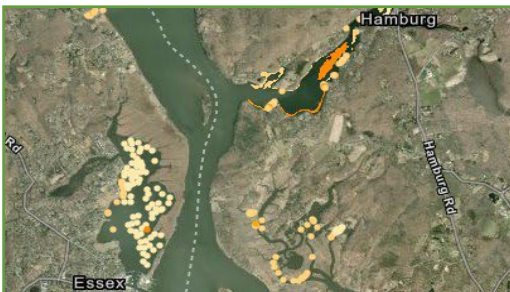
- Forms dense mats that degrade river habitat and water quality
- Poses threat to native plants and animals
- Alters river flow, light infiltration, temperature, pH, and oxygen concentration

Human Impacts

- Loss of waterway navigability, boating, fishing, and recreation
- Compromised tourism and economic losses
- Diminishes waterfront property values
- Water infrastructure threat



Hydrilla on the Mattabesset River CT River Tributary, Fall 2020 (CAES)



What's Being Done?

- Monitoring and invasion [mapping](#)
- Genetic research
- Management approach research and testing
- Boat access signage and stewardship
- [Draft Management Plan](#) Development

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



2021 (USACE)



Hydrilla fragment surveyed from CT River by CAES

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Project Website [Link](#)

