

# Connecticut River Hydrilla Fact Sheet

## PLANT AND RIVER INFORMATION

### PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

**Stems:** slender, branched, up to 25 ft long.

**Leaves:** pointed, serrated edge, barb on leaf underside, grow in whorls of 4-10.

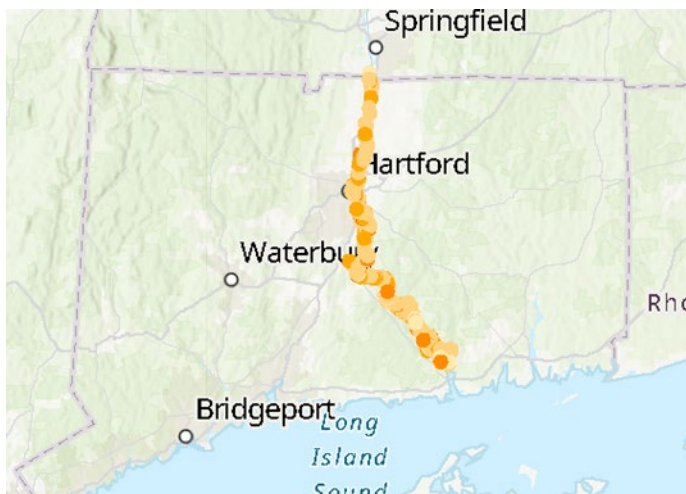
**Turions:** dormant buds on stems found at leaf axils, freeze-resistant viability (overwinters); prolific production in CT River strain.

**Subterranean Turions (Tubers):** potato-like sub-surface root structures, long-term viability (not yet observed in CT River).

### CONNECTICUT RIVER INVASION

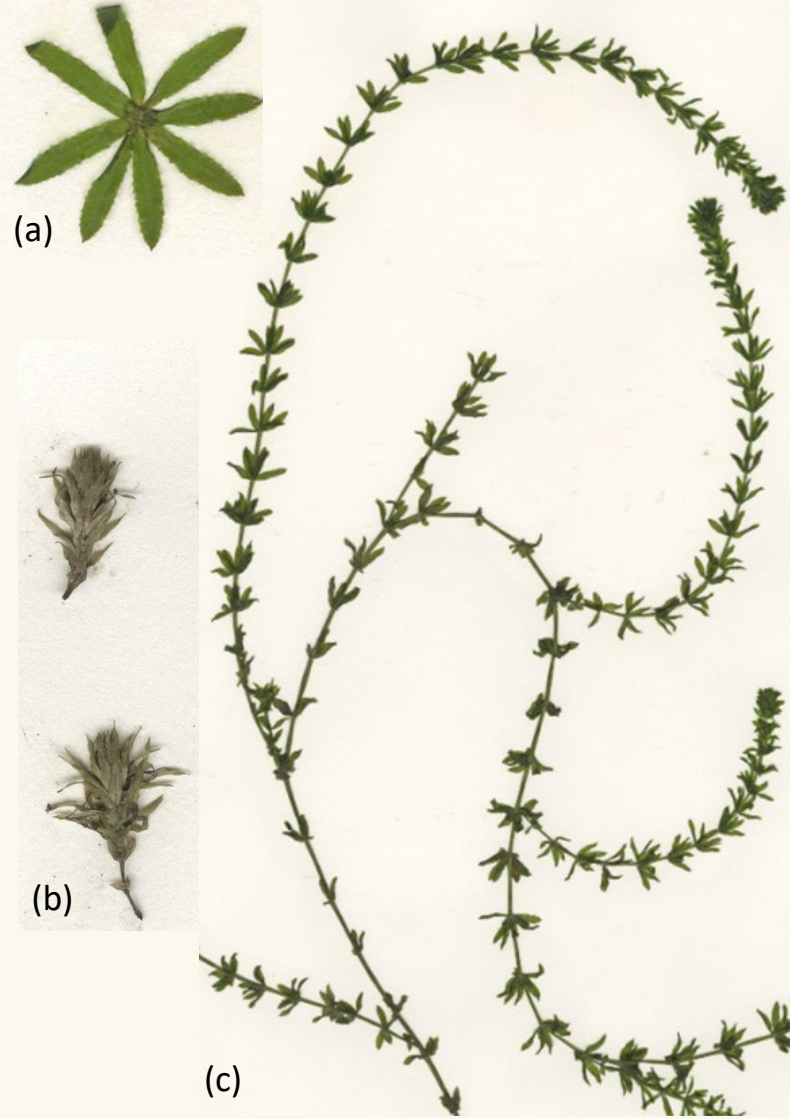
- First identified in CT River in 2016
- Genetically distinct hydrilla strain
- Rapid growth rate during summer months
- Easily fragmented strands; a single-node fragment can develop a completely new plant; auto-fragments each fall
- Documented hydrilla patches from Agawam, MA to Essex, CT
- [Hydrilla 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 \(arcgis.com\)](https://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>

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Project Website [Link](#)

