

Connecticut River Hydrilla Fact Sheet

POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

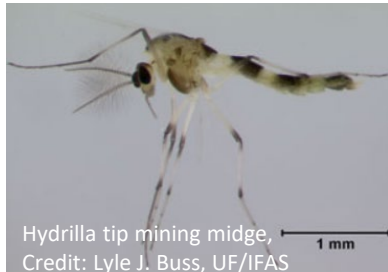


Mechanical Harvesting

- **Pros:** immediate results; clears specific areas to restore use (marinas, infrastructure, channels); removed plants do not decompose in the water; favorable public perception
- **Cons:** impacts both target and non-target species; by-catch concerns; waste disposal considerations; short-lived growing season control; promotes fragmentation which ultimately increases hydrilla proliferation

Physical Barriers and Benthic Mats

- **Pros:** clears specific areas to restore use (marinas, docks, channels)
- **Cons:** impacts both target and non-target species; not applicable for large areas; impacts to benthic habitats/organisms; gas evolution trapped beneath sheets; difficult to apply in flowing waters; temporary control measure;



Biological Control Agents

- **Pros:** Can be species-selective, such as hydrilla flies, or non-selective but effective, such as sterile grass carp; can decrease the amount of herbicide treatments needed
- **Cons:** non-selectivity (sterile grass carp), overwintering of control species in CT is unknown; most target one part of the plant (growing tips, leaves, etc.) rather than whole plant removal

Chemical Control

- **Pros:** can be species-selective; scalable; shown to be successful hydrilla treatment across multiple states and drinking water sources; low fragmentation risk
- **Cons:** Concerns for impacts to non-target species of concern (fish, mussels, birds, etc.); tests on CT River hydrilla strain needed; site-dependent success based on water exchange



HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Prevent spread to new areas

- a. Enforce [Clean→Drain→Dry](#) procedures at boat ramps and marinas

2. Report infestations

3. Engage in public meetings and become an active stakeholder

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