

# *Hydrilla verticillata* - Hydrilla

Why releasing pets and aquaria just doesn't make sense



**Hydrilla verticillata**

Image: David J. Moorhead, Bugwood.org

*Hydrilla verticillata*, also known as “the perfect aquatic weed,” can elongate up to one inch per day, forming choking mats that make recreational use difficult if not impossible. It was introduced to the SE United States as a decorative aquarium plant, but after it was discarded into canals it began to spread with a vengeance.

It now invades 28 states and costs the nation millions in management dollars annually. Learn more about [Hydrilla](#) and help prevent its spread to new waterways!



**USDA photo**

Mike Netherland (left) and Donald Morgan of the Army Corps of Engineers collect herbicide-resistant hydrilla from Lake Seminole in northern Florida.



**Hydrilla verticillata**

Image: Wilfredo Robles, Bugwood.org