

# ELODEA



Aquatic Invasive Species!



This aquatic plant is **NOT NATIVE** to Alaska. *Elodea* survives freezing and can spread by tiny fragments.



Elodea will cause serious, irreversible harm to aquatic habitats, resulting in degraded fisheries if allowed to spread unchecked.

## Distinguishing Features of *Elodea*:

**Leaf:** Leaves are arranged in whorls of 3 (occasionally 4) and are densely packed along the stem. Leaves are about 1cm long and are finely toothed along the edges.

**Stem:** Long, slender, generally branched and typically lighter in color than leaves.

*Elodea* remains submersed and forms tangled masses in lakes, ponds, and slow moving streams. Individual plants can vary in appearance, with some robust and others with long inter-nodes between leaves and weak stems.

Please help prevent the spread of aquatic invasives:



CLEAN



DRAIN



DRY

Report aquatic invasive sightings to 1-877-INVASIV



## Native Alaskan aquatic plants that can be confused with Elodea



### *Potamogeton richardsonii* - Richardson's Pondweed

Description: Densely spaced, alternate lance-shaped leaves 2-13 cm long. Leaves have wavy or crinkled margins often curled backwards with 7 or more veins.



### *Ceratophyllum demersum* - Coontail

Description: Branched stems with stiff whorls of 5-12 forked olive-green to almost black leaves. Leaves are 1.5-4cm long. It lacks roots and floats freely.



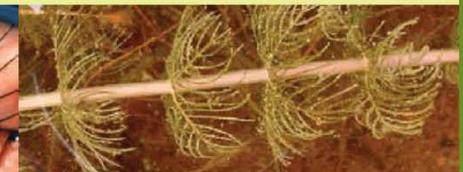
### *Hippuris vulgaris* - Common Mare's Tail

Description: Looks like a robust green bottle-brush growing in patches, primarily in shallow areas, emergent from water late in the season. Has unbranched stems, 8-12 whorled leaves (.5 to 3.5 cm long).



### *Callitriche hermaphroditica* - Northern Water Starwort

Description: Small delicate plants usually found in shallow water. Loosely rooted to the bottom with 2 opposite, narrow flat, underwater leaves (up to 10mm wide and 5-20mm long). Leaf tips have two lobes forming a U-shape.



### *Myriophyllum sibiricum* - Siberian Milfoil

Description: Feather-like olive-green submersed leaves are arranged in whorls of 3-4 with fewer than 14 leaflet pairs, each leaf to 4 cm long.

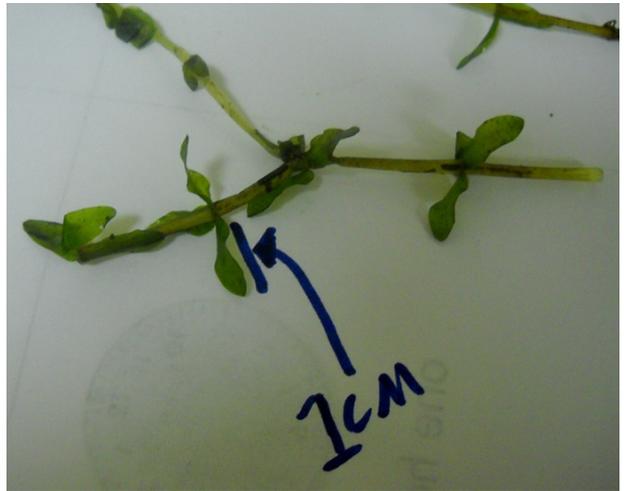
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**Individual plants vary widely in appearance depending on growing conditions**



The photo above was taken underwater in Chena Lake. Here *Elodea* is dense and thick and grows in a near monoculture.



*Elodea* from the Chena River.



*Elodea* collected at Chena Lake.



This is a thick *Elodea* monoculture in Chena Slough near Peede Road. Water was flowing slowly here and the *Elodea* almost filled the slough basin.



*Elodea* in Chena Slough coated with brown sediment, which makes it harder to see and to identify.



*Elodea* strands mixed in with some other species in shallow water near Nordale Road, in Chena Slough. Here *Elodea* looks very different than it does where the water is deeper and flowing more slowly.