

Invasive Aquatic Plants

What every aquatic plant seller should know

Some non-native species *are* harmful

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to an area, which are capable of causing harm. While most non-native plant species are not a problem, a few, such as purple loosestrife, flowering rush, and Eurasian watermilfoil, can harm ecosystems and impede water recreation. Purple loosestrife, once sold and used because of its beautiful flowers, has invaded thousands of Minnesota wetlands, displacing native plants and reducing food and habitat for native species. Other non-native plants, such as yellow iris and pink waterlilies, have spread in a few Minnesota waters and appear to have invasive characteristics. Once introduced, invasive species can spread to new areas and can rarely be eliminated. Once established, the costs to reduce their harmful impacts can be considerable.

Some invasive species are illegal to possess

Minnesota *Prohibited Invasive Species* are likely to cause problems and should be avoided. *Prohibited Invasive Species* may not be legally sold, purchased, or possessed in Minnesota (see list on back).

Some invasive species can be possessed, but have restrictions on their use

Regulated Invasive Species and those which are not on any list are legal to own, but must be kept out of most natural waters, such as lakes, wetlands, or streams. A permit is required from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) before placing any plant in most natural waters. Only

native aquatic plants will be permitted. A homeowner should always contact the DNR before placing aquatic plants in Minnesota waters (see diagram on back).

Some invasive species can “hitchhike” on rootstocks of other aquatic plants

In some cases, a fragment of an invasive species will cling to the rootstock of another ornamental aquatic plant. Loose pieces of vegetation and debris should be washed off before plants are sold or planted.



Photo: courtesy of Allison Fox

Hydrilla is one example of a very harmful invasive species found “hitchhiking” on rootstocks of ornamental aquatic plants.

For more information, contact
Wendy Crowell at 651-259-5085
or toll free 1-888-646-6367

Minnesota DNR
Division of
Ecological Services
May 11, 2006



Invasive Aquatic Lists: prohibited and regulated species

Aquatic Plant Species on the Minnesota Prohibited Invasive Species List

Prohibited Invasive Species may not be possessed, imported, purchased, sold, or introduced into Minnesota waters. *

Azolla pinnata - mosquito fern, water velvet
Butomus umbellatus - flowering rush
Crassula helmsii - Australian stonecrop
Eichhornia azurea - rooted waterhyacinth
Hydrilla verticillata - hydrilla
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae - European frog-bit
Hygrophila polysperma - Indian swampweed
Ipomoea aquatica - water-spinach
Lagarosiphon major - African oxygen weed
Limnophila sessiliflora - ambulia
Lythrum salicaria, *Lythrum virgatum*, and all cultivars-purple loosestrife
Melaleuca quinquenervia - broadleaf paper bark tree
Monochoria hastata - monochoria
Monochoria vaginalis - exotic pickerel weed
Myriophyllum spicatum - Eurasian water milfoil
Ottelia alismoides - duck lettuce
Potamogeton crispus - curly-leaf pondweed
Sagittaria sagittifolia - exotic arrowhead
Salvinia auriculata - giant salvinia, caterpillars
Salvinia biloba - giant salvinia
Salvinia herzogii - giant salvinia
Salvinia molesta - watermoss, giant salvinia
Solanum tampicense - wetland nightshade
Sparganium erectum - exotic bur-reed
Stratiotes aloides - water aloe, water soldiers
Trapa natans - water chestnut

Aquatic Plant and Fish Species on the Minnesota Regulated Invasive Species List

These aquatic plants and fish are **regulated** invasive species in Minnesota. They and other *unlisted* non-native species are legal to buy and sell, but may not be placed in public waters (which include most natural water bodies). These species may be placed in constructed ponds or water gardens that are not connected to public waters, or may be kept in aquariums (see diagram below).

Fish:

Cyprinus carpio - koi
Carassius auratus - goldfish

Aquatic plants:

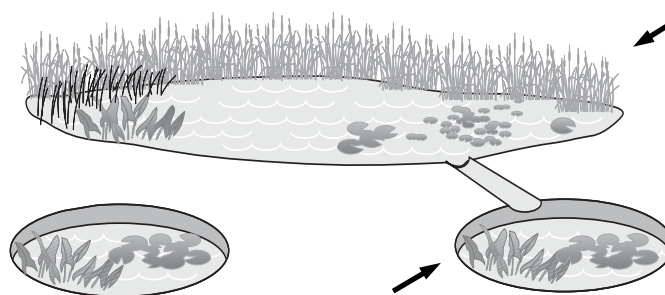
Cabomba caroliniana - Carolina fanwort
Iris pseudacorus - yellow iris
Myriophyllum aquaticum - parrot's feather
Nymphaea spp. - non-native waterlilies (any non-native cultivar, hybrid, or variety)
[Note: **Native** Minnesota waterlilies are *Nymphaea odorata* subsp. *odorata* and *Nymphaea odorata* subsp. *tuberosa*.]

For more information about invasive species' regulations, call Jay Rendall, DNR Invasive Species Program Coordinator at 651-259-5131 or toll free at 1-888-646-6367

* Lists are updated on the DNR Web Site:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/laws.html

Where buyers can use aquatic plants

Created ponds or water gardens, with no outflow to "public" waters - It is **OK** to place any aquatic plant **except** a prohibited invasive species in these waters



"Public" waters are most natural waters - A permit is required for planting native aquatic plants below the ordinary high water line. It is **illegal** to place any non-native species in these waters below the ordinary high water line.

Created ponds or non-public natural waters connected to "public" waters - Native aquatic plants may be planted without a permit from the DNR. It is **illegal** to place any non-native species in these waters.

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Buyers can contact their DNR Area or Regional Fisheries Office to find out if a water body is public, and to obtain a permit, if needed. Contact the DNR Info Center (toll-free 1-888-646-6367) for the phone numbers of Area and Regional Fisheries Offices.