



Weed of the Month: Hydrilla Verticillata

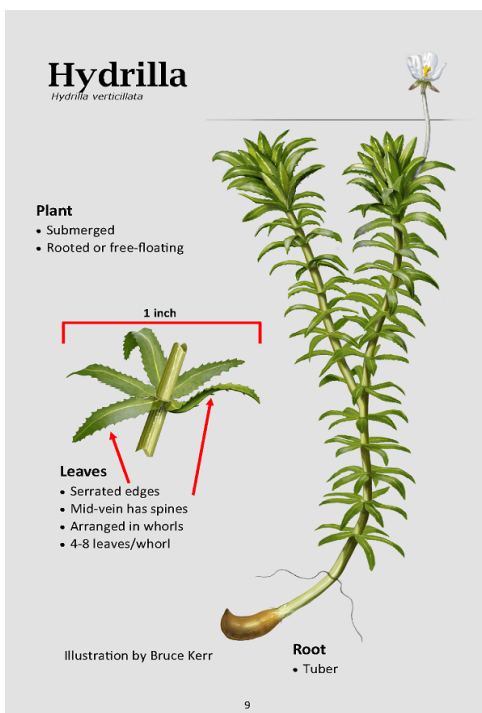
Welcome to our "Weed of the Month" feature, designed to raise awareness about the impact of noxious invasive weeds on our environment. This month, we're focusing on Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), an aggressive plant species that poses a significant threat to native ecosystems and agricultural lands.

Identification:

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is a perennial submersed aquatic plant. Hydrilla consists of a series of individual green stems that have tightly packed whorls of two to eight triangular leaves at each node. This weed produces distinctive subterranean vegetation tubers and swollen shoots in its leaf axils. There are two biotypes of hydrilla present in California.



Left- Illustrated diagram of Hydrilla structure and makeup
Right - Submersed Hydrilla patch



Invasive Behavior:

Hydrilla is capable of infesting any freshwater aquatic system in California. It has been found in Yuba County. Typically, it is found in shallow water. Hydrilla forms large mats that fill the water column and can block or severely restrict water flow. Although it is a perennial, hydrilla acts like an annual. Dieback of above-ground portions of the plant usually occurs in late fall and winter. In spring, when water temperatures exceed 59 degrees F, Hydrilla begins to grow, producing large amounts of biomass by late summer and early fall .



Left- Magnified submersed Hydrilla, stems and leaves.





Impact:

Reduces recreational quality, crowds out the native plants, and degrades overall water quality. Can slow water flow in canals and then increase sedimentation rates. Once established, it produces a bank of tubers and turions in the soil that may remain viable for three to five years.

Control and Management:

Hydrilla is easily spread by people and by wildlife. It reproduces by fragmentation of the stems and root crowns, and by the production of the tubers and turions. By law, Hydrilla eradication efforts are the responsibility of state and county governments. Suspected infestations of Hydrilla should be reported to the local county agricultural commissioner office.

Left- Hydrilla bunch
Right - Surface view of infested waterway



Prevention:

Preventing the spread of Hydrilla is key to its management. Be vigilant for any signs of this weed in your area and report sightings to the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at (530) 822-7500. Once its presence is confirmed, eradication efforts will be coordinated by the CDFA.

By staying informed and taking proactive measures, we can work together to curb the spread of Hydrilla and protect our native ecosystems. Join us next month for a new "Weed of the Month" feature, where we'll highlight another noxious invasive plant and share tips on how to address it.

For more information about Hydrilla, feel free to visit the California Invasive Plant Council website at:

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/report57/>

For more information about our other county programs, visit our website at:

<https://www.suttercounty.org/government/county-departments/agricultural-department>

Thank you for your dedication to preserving our environment and agricultural land!

