

Protect Andover Lake from Hydrilla

What is Hydrilla?

Hydrilla is an invasive, nonnative aquatic plant. A genetically distinct strain of Hydrilla was first identified in the Connecticut River in 2016 in Glastonbury. It spreads rapidly via plant fragments that can be carried by boats and it is now found in lakes and ponds throughout Connecticut and as far north as Agawam, MA. Hydrilla can form thick mats that choke native ecosystems and impair recreational activities. Early identification and intervention are critical to prevent infestation and costly remediation. For example, Coventry Lake has spent over \$1 million to control Hydrilla since it was first detected 2017.



Hydrilla mat on the Connecticut River in 2019. CAES website.

Recognizing Hydrilla

Hydrilla grows in long stems with whorls of *more* than three leaves (typically five). It looks similar to Elodea species that are native to Andover Lake; however, Elodea has whorls of only three leaves. Also, Hydrilla leaves often have a visibly toothed edge and the leaf vein often has small visible spines.



2022 CAES invasive aquatic plants workshop

What can I do?

We all have a role to play in preventing the introduction and spread of Hydrilla into Andover Lake. Boats can spread aquatic invasive species from one waterbody into another. CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY your boat before putting it into the lake. Hydrilla can spread very rapidly and early detection and rapid response are critical to avoid having it take over the lake. ALPOA members should keep an eye out for suspicious plants and do the following if Hydrilla is suspected: 1) note the location, 2) take a photograph and 3) send this information to: andoverlakemonitoring@gmail.com