

# *Hydrilla verticillata*

## The perfect aquatic weed

### Where does it come from?

*Hydrilla verticillata* (L.F.) Royle originates from Asia but due to its extensive adaptive attributes can survive in varying habitats. Cosmopolitan species in Europe, Asia, Australia and Americas.



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### What does it look like?

It is a submerged, rooted aquatic weed, but can fragment, these fragments can survive in free-floating mats. Leaves are 2-4mm wide, 6-20mm long and occur in whorls of 3-8. The leaf margins are serrated and midrib is often red. Can be monocious/doecious. Produces hybernacula, turions in leaf axils and tubers.



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### Why the perfect weed?

Grows under wide range of conditions. Colonizes deeper water due to low light requirements. Reproduces in 4 ways: fragments, tubers, turions and seed.



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### What does it do?

Hydrilla causes major impacts on water use. Reduces flow in drainage canals, interferes with navigation of boats and fishing activities and other recreational activities. Displaces indigenous vegetation and adversely impacts sportfish populations. Economic and tourism impacts can be staggering.



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Adapted from: *Hydrilla verticillata*: the perfect aquatic weed - Langeland, 1996.  
Compiled by D. Sharp



water & forestry

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