

River and Wetland INVASIVE PLANTS*



COMMON REED GRASS 1,2



JAPANESE HOPS 3



JAPANESE KNOTWEED 2



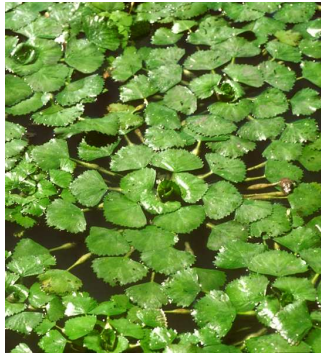
FLOWERING RUSH 1,2



CHINESE YAM 2



JAPANESE STILT GRASS 4



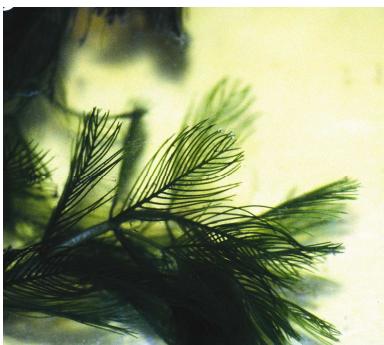
WATER CHESTNUT 5



HYDRILLA 6



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE 2



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL 7



CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED 7



BRAZILIAN WATERWEED 5

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PHRAGMITES (*Phragmites australis*) **Perennial**, semi-aquatic grass, 6-13 feet tall in dense clones. Vegetative **spread** by rhizomes. **Leaves** are narrow to 30 inches long. **Flowers** are light brown to purple; silky hairs and spikelets form inflorescences that bloom July-September. Threatens shorelines, wetlands and disturbed areas. Both native and non-native Phragmites exist in Wisconsin.

JAPANESE HOPS (*Humulus japonicus*) **Annual, herbaceous vine** with downward pointing hairs along stem and petioles; climbs clockwise. **Leaves** are rough, have 5-9 lobes, and petioles are longer than leaves. **Flowers** are dull green with 5 petals in spikes that bloom July-October. Threatens floodplains, streambanks and lake shores.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) **Shrub-like erect to arching perennial** 4-10 feet tall in dense rhizomatic clones. **Stems** are hollow, bamboo-like with swollen nodes. Alternate **leaves** are up to 6 inches long, broad, and oval with a pointed tip and flat base. Small white **flowers** clustered in erect racemes in leaf axils bloom in late summer. Threatens riparian corridors, wetlands, and disturbed areas. Spreads by stem/root fragments; possibly by seed.

FLOWERING RUSH (*Butomus umbellatus*) **Perennial emergent aquatic herb** 1-5 feet tall. Thin **stems** support pink to white **flowers** that have 3-6 petals 1 inch wide and bloom June-August. **Leaves** are narrow, up to 40 inches long, and have a triangular cross section. **Spreads** by rhizomes and stem fragments Threatens shallow water shoreline marshes, lakes and streams.

CHINESE YAM (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*) **Perennial herbaceous vine** climbs counter-clockwise to 15 feet. **Leaves** are opposite with alternate upper nodes, are tinted bronze to red in leaf joints, and are spear- or heart-shaped. **Flowers** are small, white-green, smell of cinnamon, and bloom June-July. **Spreads** by **bulbils**, which are small, potato-like organs in leaf axils that are apparent June-September. Threatens streambanks, floodplains, and moist forests.

BRAZILIAN WATERWEED (*Egeria densa*) Submersed, perennial, aquatic herb grows down to 20 feet. Stems may be branched. Resembles common Elodea canadensis, but these leaves are usually in whorls of 4 and very closely spaced. Bright green leaves are 0.8-1.2 inches long with finely serrated edges. Flowers rare. Spreads by fragments.

WATER CHESTNUT (*Trapa natans*) **Rooted, annual herb** that forms a leafy rosette that floats on the water surface. **Stems** are up to 16 feet long, and have 2 types of leaves. **Submersed leaves** are feathery, up to 6 inches long and are whorled the length of the stem. **Emergent leaves** are triangular, 1-2 inches long, and are waxy with serrated edges. **Leaf stems** have swollen bulbs that provide buoyancy. **Flowers** are small, white, and have 4 petals. Blooms late July to fall frost. **Fruit** is 1 inch wide nut with 4 stout barbs. **Spreads** by seed and plant fragments.

HYDRILLA (*Hydrilla verticillata*) Submersed, perennial, aquatic herb roots from inches to over 20 feet deep. Slender stems branch freely, often forming dense surface mats. Pointed leaves are 0.5-0.75 inches long. Resembles common Elodea canadensis, except hydrilla leaves have a serrated edge, barbs along the underside midrib and occur in whorls of 4. Spreads by fragments, turions and tubers.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*) **Perennial, semi-aquatic, emergent forb** is often in dense stands with woody roots. **Flowers** are purple, in spike-like inflorescences from 1 to 30 inches long, and bloom from July to September. **Leaves** are 1.5-4.5 inches long, finely hairy, lance-like, and usually opposite (sometimes whorled above). Threatens wet meadows, shorelines and shallow waterways.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) Perennial, submersed aquatic herb rooted 2-15 feet deep. Stems branch freely and often form dense surface mats. Leaves in whorls of 4 with 12 or more pairs of leaflets and hang limply out of water. (Native milfoil leaves stout with 7-10 pairs, but hybrids occur.) Spreads by fragments.

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED (*Potamogeton crispus*) Submersed, perennial, aquatic herb with flattened stems. Forms dense mats. Alternate leaves are 0.5-3.5 inches long, green-brown in summer with curly edges, and bright green and smooth in winter/early spring. Usually dies back in early summer. Spreads by root fragments and turions. Threatens water 3-10 feet deep.

JAPANESE STILT GRASS (*Microstegium vimineum*) **Annual grass** that looks similar to a small bamboo and forms dense mats. **Stems** are up to 40 inches long, root at stem nodes and are somewhat reclining. **Leaves** are light green, 4-5 inches long, lanceolate, and have a silver strip of reflective hairs on the slightly off center midrib. **Flower spikes** are 1-3 inches long, bloom in early fall, and produce large quantities of seed. Threatens floodplains, streambanks and forested wetlands.

Early detection is a must to prevent these species from becoming established in Wisconsin. Call the WDNR at (608) 267-7438 to report them or for more information.

Taxonomy references from Gleason & Cronquist's Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium, University of Stevens Point.

Prevent the Spread of River and Wetland Invasives!

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting
- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water (Boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.)
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

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