

Frightening Factoids

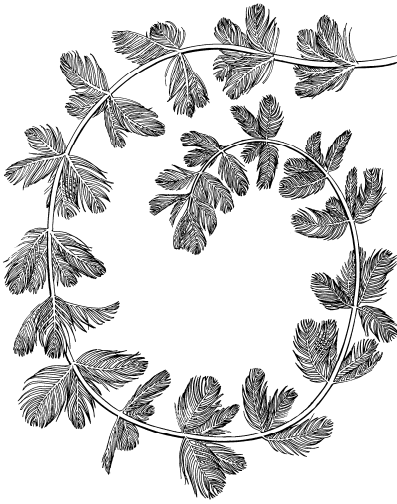
About Aquatic Invaders

~ A tiny plant fragment or a single seed carried on a boat or trailer can begin the infestation of an entire lake. Invasive species, unlike other forms of pollution, are self-sustaining.

~ An invasive plant population in a lake can double or triple in size every year.

~ Invasive plants are forever! There are very few documented cases of successful eradications.

~ Some of the control measures used to fight invasive aquatic plants are nearly as destructive to lakes as the plants themselves. Control measures may threaten rare or endangered species in a water body.



~ Lake associations and towns in other states have been battling Eurasian milfoil (EWM) for decades! Approximately 8-10 million dollars in public money is spent fighting this plant every year.

~ Invasive aquatic plants can compete with and eliminate beneficial native aquatic plants.

~ The introduction of a single invasive species to a lake can virtually ruin recreational opportunities, alter fish and wildlife habitat, affect water quality and lower shoreline property values.

~ Recent research in Vermont shows that invasive plants can cost shore line landowners on infested lakes over \$12,000 each in lost property values! Vermont property values have been seen to decrease by up to 16% due to milfoil infestations alone.

~ Maine's neighboring states spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to prevent and control the spread of IAS.

~ All of the New England States, as well as 42 other states and seven Canadian provinces are battling Eurasian milfoil, water chestnut, and a broad group of other invasive species.

~ A total of \$100 million is invested annually in the U.S. to control invasive aquatic plants.

~ Hydrilla can be even worse than Eurasian milfoil! This aquatic invader can completely overtake a population of EWM! From \$20-\$30 million in public money is spent every year battling Hydrilla in the US.

~ Massachusetts spends over \$290,000 annually on grants for local lake projects, most of which is spent on battling invasives in their 298 infested lakes.

~ The US Coast Guard estimates that economic losses and control efforts cost the United States about \$5 billion each year.

~ Zebra mussels can clog water pipes so severely that city water supplies can be cut-off. This happened in 1989 in the town of Monroe, MI for three days. Zebra mussels also crowd out some fish species and deposit sharp shells on beaches.

The most effective and inexpensive approach to the problem of invasive aquatic species is PREVENTION.