



# Guidelines for Disposal of Aquatic Invasive Plants

Produced by:

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## INTRODUCTION:

Efforts to control invasive plants may generate large amounts of plant material and soil or sediment containing viable plant parts. This material must be appropriately managed or it could contribute to the re-establishment and spread of the species at the controlled site, the disposal site or landfill, or elsewhere. In many cases, plants may re-grow in future years. It is very important to monitor sites after control efforts to prevent invasive plants from re-establishing and re-invading the area. In general, it is best to control plants early in the season, before they begin to flower. In some cases, fruits and seeds can continue to mature even on plants that have been uprooted, so it is important to check plants for flowers before deciding on a disposal option. It is advisable to leave plants controlled by herbicides in place instead of removing them. This document is intended only as a basic guide.



An extremely dense invasion of pond water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*). Photo by Les Mehrhoff.

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## MANY INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS CAN SPREAD BY PLANT FRAGMENTS RELEASED INTO AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

This document focuses on the disposal of invasive plant material after control work takes place and does not include information about invasive plant control. However, many aquatic plants spread by plant fragments, so extreme caution should be used when conducting aquatic invasive plant removal. Once control activities have concluded, please use these general guidelines to dispose of invasive plant materials as safely and effectively as possible. Visit the website of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group ([www.cipwg.uconn.edu](http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu)), use other resources, or ask an aquatic control professional and information on controlling invasive plants in private waterbodies. Additionally, remember that each situation is unique and this document is intended only as a basic guide.

## No Dumping:

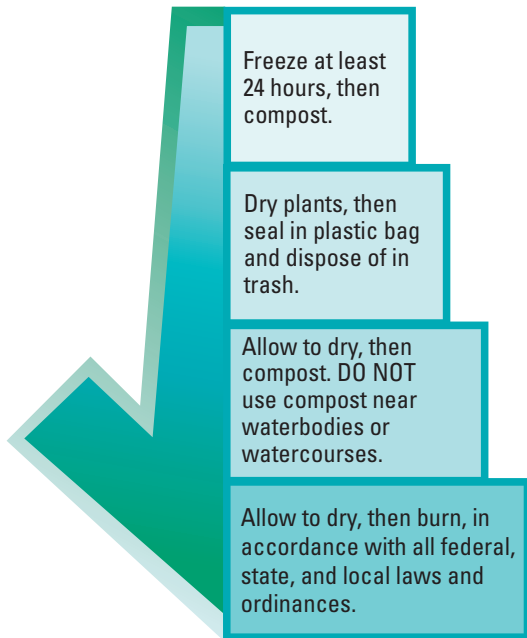
Many invasive aquatic plants are introduced to new areas when water gardeners or aquarium owners dump plants into a local water body. **NEVER** dispose of aquatic plants from fish tanks or water gardens into natural systems. Additionally, ensure that water gardens are located away from natural water bodies, where floods, animals, or other factors could contribute to the release of aquatic plants (or animals) into the environment.

## LEGAL NOTES:

While it is illegal to transport material of any species listed under Connecticut General Statute Sec. 22a-381d as an invasive plant, the statute includes an exception for the moving of plant material for the purpose of eradication. Applications of herbicides in aquatic environments require a permit from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP; CT Gen. Stat. Sec. 22a-66z). Applications of herbicides on a property that is not owned by you require a valid pesticide applicator's license (CGS Sec. 22a-47).

# Aquatic Invasive Plant Disposal Based on Quantity

## SMALLER Quantities



## LARGER Quantities

Also, please be aware that it is illegal to transport plant material of any kind (invasive or otherwise) on boats or boat trailers and that boats and boat trailers must be inspected for aquatic plants before being transported (CGS Sec. 15-180). Burning may be conducted through the local Open Burning Official as required by CGS 22a-174(f), if the town has an open burning program and the Open Burning office approves the proposed burn. Always check the local fire danger and the Air Quality Index before you burn and follow all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances when conducting invasive plant removal or disposal. Special reporting and disposal instructions exist for water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). Please contact Nancy Murray at DEEP (860-424-3589; [nancy.murray@ct.gov](mailto:nancy.murray@ct.gov)) for more information about proper disposal of these species. Contact Donna Ellis at UConn (860-486-6448; [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu)) to report giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*). For information about the appropriate disposal of terrestrial invasive plants, please refer to the DEEP/UConn publication, "Guidelines for Terrestrial Plant Disposal".

## EXCEPTIONS

Although seeds, rhizomes, and other reproductive parts may survive the composting process, do not compost aquatic plants if there is a possibility that compost from these plants may be used in, around, or near any type of water body. Do not send aquatic plants to a commercial or municipal compost site. The plants in the table to the right may also reproduce by seed, but even when seeds are not present they should not be composted because of the possibility that material may survive in compost and spread to new locations when the compost is distributed. Use an alternate method to dispose of these plants.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Reproductive Method
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush	rhizomes*
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Common water-hyacinth	stolons
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> **	Hydrilla**	tubers, turions
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow iris	rhizomes*
<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	American water lotus	rhizomes*
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Yellow floating heart	rhizomes*
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce	stolons
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Phragmites/Common reed	rhizomes*
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Crispy-leaved pondweed	turions
<i>Trapa natans</i> **	Water chestnut**	very hardy seeds

\*rhizome=underground creeping stem

\*\*Contact DEEP (Nancy Murray; 860-424-3589) prior to disposing of these species.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This document is based on several previously existing works, particularly a non-native plant disposal document from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (January 2010), a NH DOT Best Management Practices document (2008), and an aquatic plant disposal document from the Invasive Plant Atlas of New

England (2002). Special thanks to Les Mehrhoff (IPANE), Donna Ellis (UConn), K.C. Alexander, Chuck Lee, Nancy Murray, and Brad Robinson (DEEP), Logan Senack, and the CT Invasive Plants Council for providing feedback and information for this document.

For more information about invasive plants, visit [www.cipwg.uconn.edu](http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu) or [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) (search "invasive species"). Photos courtesy of Bruce Hunter (DEEP), Les Mehrhoff (IPANE), David Moorehead (bugwood.org), and Vice Ramey (IFAS at the University of Florida).

