

Aquatic Plants and Algae Species Assessment Group - Summary of group ratings

Date: 09/26/2007

Members of the SAG: Robert Dahl, DATCP; Tim Hoyman, WAL; Shawn Wenzel, Aquatic Innovators, LLC; Laura Herman, UWSP; Robert Freckmann, UWSP Freckmann Herbarium; John Skogerboe, USACOE; Kristy Maki, Sawyer County; Phil Moy, Sea Grant (not present); Bill Ratajczyk, Applied Biochemists; Tony Kuchma, Oneida Tribe; Susan Lehnhardt, Applied Ecological Services, LLC
DNR leader: Dr. Jennifer Hauxwell **Facilitator:** Bob Korth (UWSP Lakes Program)

Species: *Eichhornia crassipes* (Water hyacinth)

Ratings for Criteria - 1st round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Current status and distribution	4	1	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	1	
2. Establishment potential	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	1	
3. Damage potential	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	2	3	1	
4. Prevention and control potential	2	1	4	1	4	2	3	2	4	4	
5. Socioeconomic impacts	1	1	3	1	4	2	4	2	3	1	

Ratings for Classification	W	W	R	W/R	R	R	R	W	R	N	
Totals - 1st round	Prohibited			Restricted			Watch			Non-restricted	
Number of votes				5			4			1	

Ratings for Classification	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	W	W	N	
Totals - 2nd round	Prohibited			Restricted			Watch			Non-restricted	
Number of votes				3			6			1	

Final Recommended Classification :

Watch

Comments

- 10 & 2- heavily used in aq. plant trade; seems to have little to no tolerance for cold temperature; grows bigger in confined areas
- 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 - can survive in warm water areas, ponds with warm water discharge areas; overwintered 4-5 yrs in Fifield sewage pond.
- 3- concerned about plant becoming an annual
- 2- could be PR issue, many people use and like water hyacinth. Negative reaction from public could result.

Detailed comments:

- 10 – Heavily used in the water garden industry. We have not seen any survive whatsoever. We don't have a greenhouse, we've brought them in over winter, we compensate for the loss of daylight, but they still don't survive. Majority of ponds we're putting them in are 2-3 feet, some up to 5 feet. They grow like crazy when it's warm. We sell them as annuals, you compost by the end of the season. Outside of warm water discharge areas, this plant will not survive. Grow bigger and taller when they're confined. This species is easy to eradicate, you don't even need herbicides, you can just collect, bag, throw away. Good plant to use to remove nutrients Cannot exempt water gardens, that would open up the nightmare of defining exactly what is a water garden.
- 9 – Concerned about warm-water areas.
- 8 – concern over its establishment in Fifield, have seen some contradictory information
- 7 – concerned with Kewaunee nuclear and warm-water discharge areas. In SE- spread to take over entire bay in one year. Do we want this spp planted and be able to take over a large area within one season? Great pond plant, though, so some confliction. Overwintered 4-5 years in Fifield, but this is a warm-water discharge area. A: annual, this sp COULD be used to remove nutrients (in a positive way)
- 3 – Could be invasive as an annual. In most cases the winter will keep the damage potential relatively low. Very high potential to eradicate it given toolbox of control. What is the potential for this sp to outshade native plants year after year?
- 2 – Agree with 10. I have grown this sp outdoors for 20 years, never once shown the slightest potential to overwinter. Although in one growing season it may very likely be a problem. One of the things that might cause the most controversy is if we took away this plant that has been used by the public for so long in water gardens This is a trade off—is bad public relations worth whatever impact we will see from this plant?