**Know Your Plants — Know the Rules**

**Make the Right Choice About Elodea**

### Best

**Elodea Canadensis**

*use for cell study, ponds, and aquaria*

Also known as:
- Elodea
- Canadian waterweed
- Common waterweed
- *Anacharis canadensis*
- Elodea brandegeae
- Elodea ioensis
- Elodea laifolia

**Considerations:** This plant is not native in Wisconsin, but is not a regulated invasive species.

**Characteristics:** Leaves in whorls of 5, obvious serrated edges, smooth midrib (under leaf)

### Allowed

**Egeria Najas**

*use with caution*

Also known as:
- Elodea
- Narrow-leaf anacharis
- *Anacharis hilariana*
- *Anacharis najas*
- Elodea guyanensis f. longifolia
- Elodea kochii
- Elodea najas
- Elodea paraguayensis

**Considerations:** This plant is native to Wisconsin and can be ordered locally.

**Characteristics:** Leaves in whorls of 3, edges appear smooth to the naked eye

### Prohibited

**Egeria Denusa**

*do not use*

Also known as:
- Elodea
- Wide-leaf anacharis
- Brazilian elodea
- Brazilian waterweed
- South American waterweed
- *Anacharis densa*
- Elodea densa
- Elodea densa var. longifolia
- *Philotria densa*

**Considerations:** This plant is a prohibited invasive species. It cannot be bought, sold, transported, transferred, or introduced in Wisconsin.

**Characteristics:** Leaves in whorls of 4 – 8, edges appear smooth to the naked eye

View the complete list of prohibited plants at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keyword: “NR 40”
Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that cause harm to the economy, environment or human health. The DNR works to reduce the damage invasive species may cause and supports local partnerships to slow the spread of invasive species throughout the state. Since many types of organisms can be invasive, Wisconsin’s regulations include invasive plants, fish, invertebrates, mammals, birds, pests and pathogens. *Egeria densa* is just one example of a prohibited invasive plant in Wisconsin covered by the Invasive Species Rule.

**The Invasive Species Rule**
The Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule (Wis. Adm. Code ch. NR 40) classifies invasive species in Wisconsin as Prohibited or Restricted and regulates the transportation, possession, transfer and introduction of those species. This rule also establishes “Preventive Measures” to show actions we can take to slow the spread of invasive species. The Invasive Species Rule covers over 128 species and affects everyone in Wisconsin.

**Prohibited Invasive Species**
- Not yet in the state or only in a few places
- Likely to cause environmental or economic harm
- Eradication and prevention is feasible

*Regulations:* Cannot transport, possess, transfer or introduce without a permit. Control is required. DNR may order or conduct a control effort.

**Restricted Invasive Species**
- Already widely established in the state
- High environmental or economic impacts
- Complete eradication is unlikely

*Regulations:* Cannot transport, transfer or introduce without a permit. Possession is allowed except for fish or crayfish. Control is encouraged but not required.

Under the Invasive Species Rule, any viable part of the species is regulated. Certain exemptions do exist with these regulations. Please consult the website or staff for clarifications.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**
- Get to know the regulations, and make sure that you do not buy, sell or use regulated invasive species.
- Learn to identify invasive plants and animals.
- Educate others about the importance of keeping pets and plants contained.
- Use and promote non-invasive alternatives.
- Do not release any aquarium plants, fish or invertebrates.

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