

# Join the Hydrilla Hunt!

**This plant threatens to invade and choke Michigan waterways!**

If *Hydrilla verticillata* comes to Michigan it could overwhelm waterways here as it has in other states after only a few growing seasons.

We hope to stop it as soon as it is discovered but scientists cannot check all the places it might take hold. You can help!

Please look for this plant in local lakes, ponds and streams during the summer and fall. Is hydrilla already in your favorite waterway? If you find hydrilla, please send a small sample (carefully following the instructions on the back) to Michigan Sea Grant's laboratory and help us protect our waterways from this new invader.

You will be contacted only if lab analysis confirms you have found hydrilla. For more information, visit [www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ans](http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ans)



W: Banes, University of Fla.

# Hydrilla Hunt I.D. Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number during business hours \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

I used the identification drawings on this I.D. card to compare the

plants I found in \_\_\_\_\_  lake  
 stream  
 pond

in \_\_\_\_\_ county. The nearest crossroads

are \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
 MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.



Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc.

# Have you found *Hydrilla verticillata*?

**If you think so, please follow these steps carefully.**

- Step 1.** Collect 5 or 6 inches of the plant.
- Step 2.** Compare your plant's features with these drawings to rule out the most often confused native plant, Elodea.
- Step 3.** Complete the I.D. card.
- Step 4.** Shake the water off your specimen. Use 2 tablespoons of rubbing alcohol to moisten a paper towel. Place both in a sealable plastic bag.
- Step 5.** Mail the I.D. card and sealed sample bag to the following address:  
 Hydrilla Hunt, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan State University,  
 334 Natural Resources, East Lansing, MI 48824.

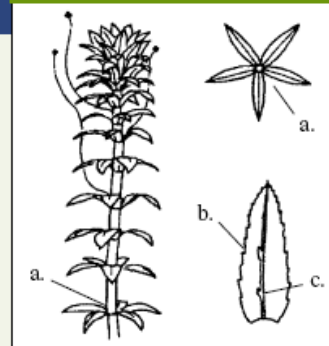


David WOOD/TVA

**Hydrilla**

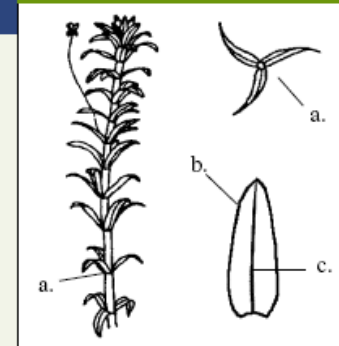
# Hydrilla or Elodea? Read the Leaves to Tell the Difference

## Hydrilla (Exotic)



- a. 4 or 5 leaves at each node
- b. Leaves have visible teeth
- c. Leaf vein has small spines

## Elodea (Native)



- a. Only 3 leaves at each node
- b. Leaf edges appear smooth
- c. Leaf vein is smooth underneath