



## Non-Native Invasive Aquatic Plants

The popularity of water gardening has increased in North Carolina and throughout the country in the past few years. Most of the aquatic and wetland plants sold by the industry never becomes a problem. However, a few have proven to be highly invasive and have caused significant environmental problems by obstructing waterways, restricting water flow, degrading water quality and interfering with fishing and recreation. These plants are called Non-Native Invasive Aquatic Plants or Nuisance Plants. Non-Native plants are only a problem when they spread rapidly and aggressively compete with native species. Invasive plant populations can grow, adapt, multiple and spread to unmanageable levels, often overwhelming entire landscapes. Preventing the introduction and spread of these plants can save millions of dollars related to the cost of controlling growth activities.

☺ Please remember these important points when leaving a water body:

- ☑ Thoroughly inspect and remove all nuisance plants and animals from your boat, propeller and trailer.
- ☑ Drain motor cooling water, bilge water, live wells and bait containers from your boat before transporting to a different body of water.

**NEVER** release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

**STOP**



**The Invasion**



## **Myriophyllum aquaticum**

**Plant found in City of Asheboro's Lake Lucas**

### **Parrotfeather**

Parrotfeather is a native of South America. Parrotfeather forms dense mats that can cover the entire surface of shallow lakes, ponds or ditches. It is usually found rooted in shallow areas up to 3 feet in depth. Leaves are found in whorls of 3 to 6 and are feathery in appearance. Stems are red or orange underwater and grey-green in color above water. Reproduction is by fragmentation.



## **Ludwigia hexapetala**

### **Creeping Waterprimrose**

Creeping waterprimrose is a native to Central and South America. It grows 3 feet tall. It forms large free-floating mats. The leaves vary in shape from rounded in early growth to pointed in mature stage. Stems are often covered with fine hairs. Flowers are bright yellow, 1 inch in diameter with 5 to 6 petals. Reproduction is by fragmentation and seed.



## **Lythrum salicaria**

### **Purple Loosestrife**

Purple Loosestrife is a native of Europe. It grows 3-7 feet tall with dense bushy growth of 1-50 stems. Leaves are opposite, lance shaped and 3 to 4 inches long. The 5-6 petal flowers have a long dense spike of bright pink/purple at the top of each stalk. The plant can be detrimental to recreational areas by choking waterways. It is an aggressive invader and is reproduced by seeds.



## **Hydrilla verticillata**

### **Hydrilla**

Hydrilla is a native of Africa and Asia. Hydrilla is characterized by leaves in whorls of 3 to 6, which are strap shaped and have saw-like serrations on the edges. They have tiny white flowers during the growing season. Hydrilla form dense mats that interfere with recreation and destroys fish and wildlife habitat.