

Boaters held responsible!

New law levies fines on boaters who don't enlist in battle against aquatic weeds:

A New regulation puts the pressure on Washington boaters to go over their boats, motors and trailers with a fine-tooth comb every time they leave the water at any access, be it public or private.

Remnants of any aquatic plants found (while the boating equipment is on the road) during inspections by law enforcement authorities could lead to a **fine** of up to \$378 for the owner or operator.

Fish and Wildlife Dept. officers began enforcing the state statute that bans the transportation of all aquatic plants last month.

The law makes no distinction between **knowingly** and **unintentionally** carrying aquatic plants and puts the responsibility for clearing their gear, on equipment owners or operators.

While the law also makes no distinction between **native** and **non-native** aquatic species, it is squarely aimed at slowing the spread of the so-called exotic or invasive water plants that have come to plague many ponds, lakes and rivers nationwide, including dozens in Washington.

If boaters don't remove all plants before they leave the ramp, they can easily spread into others bodies of water when the boat is launched again or if they are dislodged when traveling.

Noxious weeds such as milfoil are typically spread to lakes on boat trailers and fishing gear. Controlling the extensive spread of milfoil alone has cost the state millions of dollars. Milfoil and hydrilla, for example, can be spread even by dried fragments reintroduced into another waterway.

www.grantcountyweb.com/GCNW



Aquatic Plants

Revised from Grays Harbor
Noxious Weed Control Board

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Washington State Noxious
Weed Control Board

360.902.2053

www.nwcb.wa.gov

Washington Department of

Fish & Wildlife

360.902.2700

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/ans1.htm>

Washington Department of Ecology

1.800.633.6193

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/index.html>

FRAGRANT WATERLILY



Pretty flower, but a noxious weed!

Are You Spreading

STOP
Harmful
Species

Unwanted plants can ruin your favorite fishing and boating waters!



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Please!

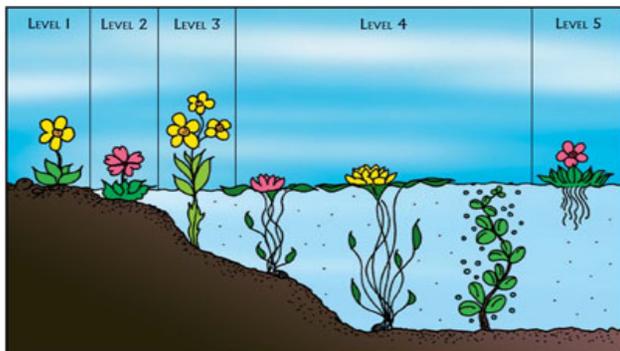
- Remove all aquatic plants and animals from recreation equipment
- Drain water from your boat trailers, tackle and gear, before leaving the area
- Do not empty aquariums or bait into water

Grant County Noxious Weed Board
32 C St NW.
Ephrata, WA. 98823
509-754-2011 Ex 375

Be a part of the solution!

- ✓ IT'S THE LAW: Don't trailer or launch your boat before removing all hitchhiking plants and animals and placing them in the trash.
- ✓ Don't discard unwanted live bait or its packing into the water.
- ✓ Drain your engine, "live well", and bilge on land before leaving the area.
- ✓ Rinse your vessel, trailer, and equipment.
- ✓ Air dry your vessel and equipment for as long as possible.
- ✓ Don't release unwanted aquarium plants or animals into our waters.
- ✓ Avoid docking or beaching your vessel in reeds, plants and grasses.

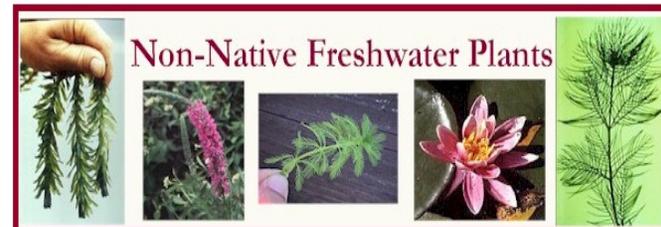
Smaller native elodea are seen here with the larger invasive Brazilian elodea to the right.



Introducing non-native species into Washington waters can upset the balance of the ecosystem. Aquatic nuisance species such as New Zealand mud snails most often spread between waterways by hitching a ride on vessels and trailers. When transplanted into new waters, these organisms proliferate, displacing native species and damaging our precious natural resources.

Outside their native home some plants and animals can:

- Cause billions of dollars worth of economic damage.
- Create dangerous swimming conditions!
- Upset our region's natural and ecological balance.
- Cripple sport and commercial fisheries.
- Aquatic plants also limit many uses of the lake.
- Can corrode boat gear and decrease the value of your investment.



Non-Native Freshwater Plants

Plant 'hitchhikers' you may encounter:

- Brazilian Elodea
- Parrotfeather
- Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Fragrant Waterlily
- Purple Loosestrife
- Garden loosestrife
- Fanwort
- Hydrilla
- Water Primrose
- Yellow Flag Iris
- Variable-leaf milfoil
- Wand loosestrife
- Curly-leaf pondweed
- Yellow floating heart

