



Ada County Pest of the Month

A quick guide to identifying and controlling invasive plants and animals found in the county



Quick Facts



- **Name:** Aquatic Noxious Weed Species
- **Found:** Water bodies across Ada County
- **Briefly:** These underwater invaders are mostly new to Ada County. They were introduced as an aquarium plant or pond ornamental.
- These plants mainly reproduce by stem fragmentation, meaning plant parts can float downstream and begin to grow in new areas. It's imperative that while recreating in Ada County, boaters and water recreationalists make sure to clean all plant fragments from their equipment.

Identification



Brazilian Elodea - is a aquatic perennial with slender stems. It forms dense submerged mats. The flower is white, has three petals and a yellow center. The flower floats at the water surface.



Eurasian Watermilfoil - Forms dense subsurface or surface mats. The submerged perennial grows stems that range from 13 to 22 feet; stems branch near the water surface and grow four finely dissected featherlike leaves. It grows a pink flower spike that can reach up to six inches tall



Hydrilla - is considered to be the most problem aquatic weed in the US. It's a submerged perennial with slender stems that grow up to 25 feet long. The weed grows to form dense subsurface mats that severely harm native aquatic life.



Parrotfeather Milfoil - is a submerged perennial weed. It grows up to 15 feet long. It has light gray-green leaves that grow in a featherlike pattern. It has inconspicuous white flowers that grow in the axils between the stem and leaf.

Turn page to learn control methods for aquatic noxious weeds found in Ada County



Control

Because most of these noxious weeds reproduce by stem fragmentation, it's not recommended to manually control noxious weeds. You can inadvertently let plant parts float downstream, and new infestations can likely grow from those rogue pieces of vegetation. You also need to ensure you remove the entire root system or else the plant will regrow. Below is a list of active ingredients found in herbicides that have proven to be effective against noxious weed infestations. Be aware that some time in early 2010, regulations regarding aquatic herbicide use will change. For more information, call our office at 577-4646. You must follow all label instructions since applying herbicides to an aquatic area can have devastating consequences to water quality and aquatic life.

2, 4-D – *Spring to early summer*

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Parrotfeather Milfoil

Copper – *Sunny mornings when water temperature is above 60°F*

Brazilian Elodea

Diquat – *June through August*

Brazilian Elodea

Endothall Dipotassium Salt – *May through August*

Brazilian Elodea

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Hydrilla

Fluridone – *May through August*

Brazilian Elodea

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Hydrilla (Apply in early spring as plants are just starting to grow and oxygen levels in the water are higher)

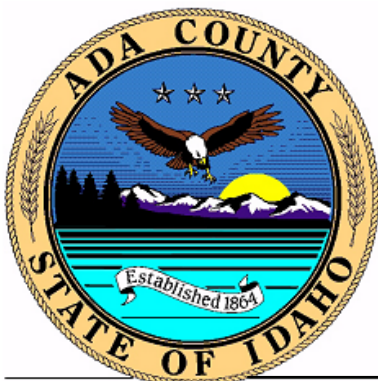
Imazapyr – *Apply to actively growing, EMERGED plants*

Parrotfeather milfoil

Triclopyr – *Spring to early summer*

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Note: Chemical control of any weed can be difficult and confusing. If you are not experienced in chemical control or do not understand the product label, you should consult a licensed applicator to assist you. Inappropriate application can kill desirable vegetation, and may violate federal law.



For questions or concerns, please contact us:

Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement

975 E. Pine - Meridian Idaho

208-577-4646

weedandpest@adaweb.net

www.adaweb.net/weedandpest.aspx
