

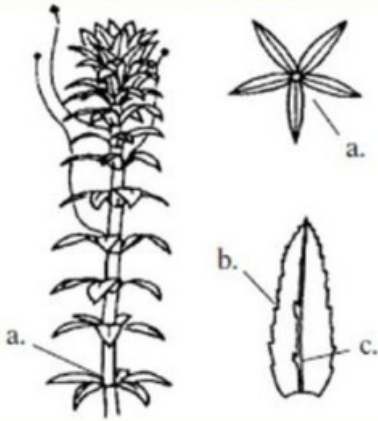
# HYDRILLA

## Aquatic Invasive Species

- Hydrilla can grow up to an inch a day, creating long fragile strands, fragmenting easily, and spreading.
- Hydrilla can create navigational difficulties and recreation hazards.
- Thick stands of Hydrilla can reduce the oxygen in the area, shade out native plants, creating a monoculture of vegetation, decreasing ecological diversity, and negatively affecting the water chemistry.
- Hydrilla is not an ideal aquatic plant in CT for supporting a balanced, diverse, and healthy fish population.

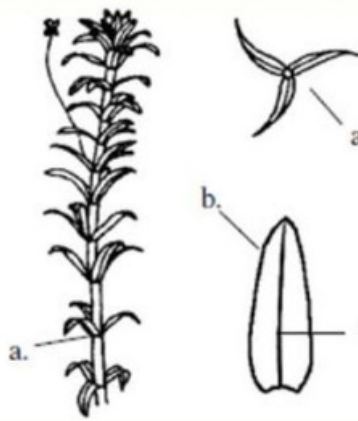
### Hydrilla or Elodea? Read the Leaves to Tell the Difference

#### 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



[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/spotlight\\_on\\_hydrilla\\_verticillata](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/spotlight_on_hydrilla_verticillata)

### IF YOU SUSPECT FOUND IT

- **Do Not Disturb Growing Population, Fragmentation Leads to Spread!**
  - Photograph
  - Log the location.
  - If on top of it, lift your propeller, if able.
  - Collect any loose and floating fragments you see.
  - Collect any fragments on your fishing line, propeller, or paddle.
  - Secure pieces in a bag or container.
    - Dry for disposal on land.
  - Carefully, Paddle out!
  - Report: email [DEEP.AquaticInvasiveReport@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.AquaticInvasiveReport@ct.gov)

**WHEN IN DOUBT, TREAT IT LIKE  
HYDRILLA!**



[www.ctlakes.org](http://www.ctlakes.org)