

## Reporting Suspicious Aquatic Plants

If you think there is an invasive plant growing in your lake:

*Observe and record your observations:*

1. When did you first notice the plant?
2. Have you seen the plant in the lake in the past?
3. Has it grown at a rapid rate?
4. If growing in a clump or patch, how large an area does it cover?
5. Is the plant growing in more than one location in the waterbody?

If you think you have found one of the eleven target invasive aquatic species in your lake, please contact the VLMP's Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants.

**Contact:** The Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District at (207) 667-8663

1. The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP) at (207) 783-7733 or [mciap@mainevlmp.org](mailto:mciap@mainevlmp.org)
2. Be prepared to give a brief description of the plant in question.
3. You may be asked to collect a sample of the plant and send it to MCIAP for identification.

*Collecting a plant specimen:*

1. You must be very careful when collecting a plant specimen. *Fragmentation could result in an invasive plant spreading to other areas of the lake.*
2. If possible, collect several (3-5) healthy stems of the plant in question. The flower, fruits and winter buds of many aquatic plants are helpful in the identification process. If these structures are present, be sure to include them in your sample. Gently break off stem sections about 6-8" long, from the top portion of the plant. For rooted floating leaved plants, be sure to include as much of the stem as possible.
3. DO NOT attempt to pull the plant out by its roots. (This is very important!)
4. Mark the location of the plant with a weighted buoy.
5. If possible, mark the location on a map. A map of the waterbody may be available on the PEARL website <http://pearl.maine.edu>
6. If the plant is covered with algae or tangled in debris, remove as much of the unwanted material as possible, without damaging the specimens.
7. Keep the specimens alive in a container full of water in the refrigerator until you are ready to ship them.



Simple marker buoy