



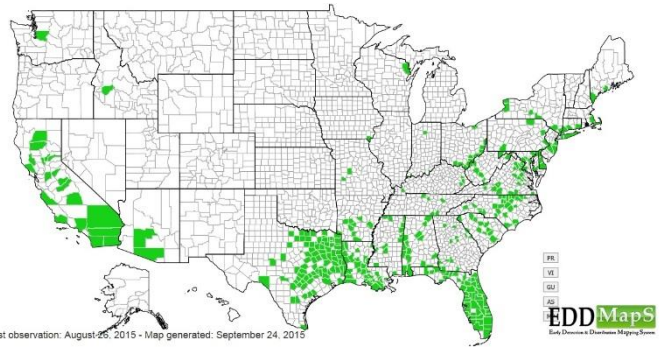
**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Great Lakes Hydrilla Collaborative

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958

Project Location: The monoecious biotype of hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) was recently discovered in Cayuga Lake, Aurora, NY; Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, NY; Erie Canal, Tonawanda, NY; and Pymatuning Lake, PA/OH. The project is providing direct support at those four locations and indirect support throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Hydrilla verticillata



Description of Problem: Hydrilla is an aggressive, opportunistic, aquatic nuisance plant species that has spread from its native Asia to every continent except Antarctica. It has been recognized as a serious aquatic invasive species threat in the United States for several decades. Recent infestations in the Great Lakes and in adjacent watersheds has caused significant concerns about spread of this invasive plant species throughout the basin. Hydrilla forms thick mats that can displace high value native plant species, alter water chemistry and oxygen levels, and be detrimental to native fish species. In addition to ecological damages, hydrilla can have negative economic effects and diminish recreational uses of water bodies.

Proposed Project: The collaborative is comprised of three major components: demonstration projects at the Erie Canal, Aurora, and Ithaca sites; technical support at existing and new infestations; and the establishment of a regional collaborative to promote awareness of hydrilla and, share best practices for prevention and response. The Hydrilla Collaborative website is located at <http://hydrillacollaborative.com>. As part of the demonstration projects, the USACE is evaluating the effectiveness of aquatic herbicides using targeted application strategies and other focused measures that improve hydrilla eradication.

Partners and Collaboration: Given the highly invasive nature of hydrilla, the USACE has partnered with numerous local and regional



resource managers, aquatic invasive species partnerships, local government, and the general public. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Canal Cooperation, Western New York and Finger Lakes Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have contributed significant staff support for implementation, field work, and outreach activities.

Project Benefits: This project will remove hydrilla from an approximately 15 mile stretch of the Erie Canal and 30 acres on Cayuga Lake in the vicinity of Aurora, and 60 acres in Ithaca; thereby reducing the risk of the infestations spreading to other parts of the Great Lakes. An intergral component of the project is developing and testing a variety of treatment methods that would be suitable for use in other portions of the Great Lakes should new infestations of hydrilla be detected. New information regarding treatment methods and the growth of hydrilla in the Great Lakes region is shared with stakeholders and interested parties through the collaborative partnership.

Measure of Progress	Project Output
2.3.2 Number of collaboratives developed/enhanced	1
2.3.1 Number of technologies and methods field tested	3
2.2.1 Number of aquatic/terrestrial acres controlled	389 acres

Project Status: This project is entering the fifth year of implementation and is currently scheduled to conclude in 2024.

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$8,000,000
Non-Federal	NA
Total	\$8,000,000

Project Budget	
FY 2018	\$750,000
FY 2019	\$770,000
FY 2020	\$750,000

Project Milestones	
2019 treatments	Aug-Sep 2019
2019 post-treatment assessment report	Feb 2020

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