



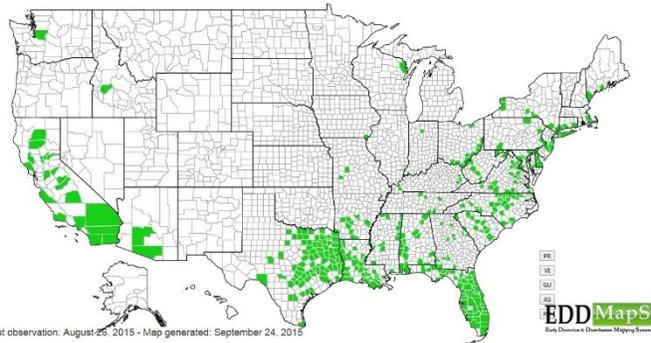
**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# 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 and is a Federally listed Noxious Weed. 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, Ithaca, and Pymatuning 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 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Canal Corporation, 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 50 acres on Cayuga Lake in the vicinity of Aurora, 83 acres in Ithaca, and roughly 600 acres at Pymatuning reservoir; thereby reducing the risk of the infestations spreading to other parts of the Great Lakes. An integral 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	830 acres

**Project Status:** This project is currently scheduled to conclude in 2024.

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$10,000,00
Non-Federal	NA
Total	\$10,000,00

Project Budget	
FY 2021	\$1,600,000
FY 2022	\$1,500,000
FY 2023	\$1,300,000

Project Milestones	
2020 post-treatment assessment report	Jan2021
2021 treatments	Jul-Sep 2021

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