

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



**May 2022**

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## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Training

### Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) Volunteer Trainings:

**May 9th at 5:00pm** - Big Cedar Lake PRD - 4480 Gonring Dr, West Bend, WI 53095

**May 11th at 5:00pm** - Oconomowoc Community Center (lower community room) - 220 W Wisconsin Ave, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

**May 18th at 5:00pm** - Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188

**May 24th at 5:00pm** - Public Agency Center - 333 E Washington St (Room # 3224), West Bend, WI 53095

Please email Amanda Schmitz at [amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov) or [aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov) with training date and number of attendees to RSVP



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## Annual Meetings

We are looking to get Lake Group Annual Meeting dates onto our calendars ASAP! If you have an event scheduled for your group, please contact Amanda with the date.  
[amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov) [aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)

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## Working Together to Manage Invasive Plants in Wisconsin

by Melinda Myers



**Photo:** Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is an invasive plant that forms a dense mat of leaves over the water surface, making boating, fishing, and other water activities difficult.

**Photo credit:** Paul Skawinski

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Spring is a favorite time in the garden. Everyday something new sprouts through the ground, blooms appear, and leaves begin filling empty branches. As you enjoy spring and summer unfolding, keep a lookout for unwelcome plants in gardens, waterways, and natural areas. The more people watching for and helping to manage invasive plants the better chance we have for controlling these invasive plants.

Here are a few of the top aquatic invasive plants to watch for and remove on your property. Please watch for and report newly-found infestations of these and other aquatic invasive species in your landscape and other spaces.

#### **Lesser Celandine**

This plant's bright yellow flowers in April and May are often mistaken for our native marsh marigold. The plant spreads rapidly, crowding out nearby native plants but the leaves die back mid-season, resulting in soil erosion.

#### **Yellow Iris**

A beautiful, but invasive plant that easily spreads by seeds floating in water, rhizomes, and floating mats, infesting areas beyond the garden where they were planted. Watch for yellow flowers in May and June and strappy leaves throughout growing season.

#### **Yellow Floating Heart**

This plant has yellow waterlily-like flowers held above heart-shaped leaves in May through October. This water plant forms dense patches that exclude native species and creates stagnant areas with low oxygen levels.

#### **Water Hyacinth**

Water hyacinth forms a dense mat of leaves over the water surface, making boating, fishing, and other water activities difficult. Its presence also degrades water quality. Watch for circular leaves to begin appearing in May and lavender blue flowers from June to

September. (Pictured above)

### **Purple Loosestrife**

This plant seemed to have a banner year in 2021. It invades wetlands, disrupting the habitat and crowding out native plants that birds, insects, and waterfowl depend upon for food and shelter. Many homeowners spraying for mosquitoes may be inadvertently killing the beetles that are being used to manage this plant. Watch for the spikes of purplish pink flowers that open from the bottom up in July through September.

### **Japanese Knotweed**

Look for the bamboo-like stems and plumes of creamy flowers that appear in September. It quickly spreads, creating an impenetrable thicket in gardens, natural spaces, and shorelines.

### **Water Lettuce**

As its name implies, this plant resembles lettuce. The leaves appear from June through October and can form a dense covering, degrading water quality and reducing habitat diversity.





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*The Aquatic Invasive Species Program is a cooperative effort between Washington & Waukesha Counties, supported by grant funds from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a number of generous local lake groups working to control the spread of AIS. Thank you for your support!*

For more information:

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