

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



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Amanda Schmitz:

Email: [amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov) or [aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)

Summer is coming to an end! If you spot any suspicious plants or animals in your waterbody, please reach out to Amanda Schmitz for identification.

[Washington County Website](#)

[Waukesha County Website](#)



## Lake Group Meetings

Do you have a lake meeting you'd like us to attend?

Please email Amanda with the date:

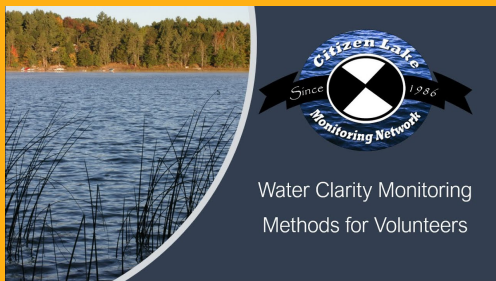
[amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov) or [aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)

## Get Involved with Citizen Lake Monitoring!

Protect your lakes by becoming a volunteer Citizen Lake Monitor! The **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network** unites over 1,000 citizen volunteers statewide with the DNR to collect high quality data, educate and empower volunteers, and share this data and knowledge.

Volunteers are provided training and equipment to monitor water quality by measuring water clarity using the Secchi Disk method every 10-14 days throughout the open water season. Volunteers may also collect chemistry, temperature, and dissolved oxygen data, and monitor for aquatic invasive species. This data is reported to national and state-wide databases and used to inform legislation, management and restoration efforts, long-term trends, and grant funding.

**We're looking for new volunteers for the upcoming 2023 season.** Contact [Amanda Schmitz](#) for more details.



## Thank you to our Snapshot Day 2022 Volunteers!

Snapshot Day is Wisconsin's largest community science event for monitoring aquatic invasive species and contributes a huge amount of data for the Wisconsin DNR database. This event has led to the early detection of new invasive species and has helped inform future management plans.

Volunteers in Washington and Waukesha Counties surveyed over a dozen lakes and rivers for aquatic invasive species. Only one new AIS population of low concern was found in Waukesha County.

Thank you volunteers and event coordinators for your hard work!



# Invasive Species Alert: European Frogbit



**European Frogbit** (or Common Frogbit) is an invasive plant that can form dense, floating mats in shallow or slow-moving waterbodies. It can block sunlight for native fish and plants which alters the food and habitat available for other species. The plant masses can impede recreational activities, damage boat motors, and clog streams and canals.

## How does European Frogbit spread?

Native to Eurasia, European Frogbit was found for the first time in Wisconsin last summer in Oconto County, north of Green Bay. Although this plant hasn't been found in Washington or Waukesha's counties yet, new populations have been found this summer in Door and Brown counties.

These plants were likely introduced as ornamental pond plants that spread into the wild. European Frogbit can be transported on boats or released from water gardens and aquariums. It can grow from stem fragments, turions (clonal buds), and seeds. When boats pass through European Frogbit beds, propellers can chop up the plants into small fragments that can quickly spread to other parts of the waterbody or cling to the boat itself. The turions and seeds are small and can be easily transported on boats, fishing gear, and shoe treads.

## How do you identify European Frogbit?

This plant can resemble some native species, like American White Water Lily and Watershield. However, there are some distinct differences between European Frogbit and other species:



### European Frogbit

Leaves are small (0.5 - 2.5 in) and round/ heart-shaped. Flowers are small with three petals and a yellow center.

### Native: White Water Lily

Leaves are larger (5.8 - 11.8 in) with a distinct pie-slice slit. Flowers are large with multiple sword-shaped petals.

### Native: Watershield

Leaves are small (up to 2.5 in wide - 4.5 in long) and football-shaped with no slit. Flowers are small and red-maroon in color.

### **How can you stop the spread of European Frogbit?**

Learning how to identify European Frogbit is an important way to discover new populations that may be spreading further throughout Wisconsin. However, the best way to keep our waterways clean is to prevent the presence of invasive species in the first place.

Always plant gardens and ponds with native or non-invasive species. Never release aquarium plants or animals into nature. Instead, return unwanted plants to stores or throw them away. Always inspect boats, trailers, and equipment for aquatic plants and animals and remove any you find. Always drain all water from boats, motors, live wells, and other equipment.

**Think you've found some?** Contact [Amanda Schmitz](#) for further steps.





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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:

Email: [amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov](mailto:amanda.schmitz@washcowisco.gov)  
[aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:aschmitz@waukeshacounty.gov)

Washington County  
262-335-4806

[www.washcowisco.gov](http://www.washcowisco.gov)

Waukesha County  
262-548-7818  
[www.waukeshacounty.gov/ais](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/ais)