

WHO CARES ABOUT HYDRILLA?

Hydrilla is a fast-growing, invasive aquatic plant that thrives at Raystown Lake. Originally from Asia, it was introduced to North America in the 1950s and has since spread rapidly to many lakes and rivers across the U.S.

This fast growing plant can grow up to 1 inch per stem per day, and each plant can have 20- 30 stems. The below image is an example of how this can quickly impact waterways.

When hydrilla stems are cut, each segment can produce new roots and establish a new plant. These plant segments can live on equipment for up to 4 days. This allows hydrilla to spread easily within an aquatic ecosystem and to other bodies of water.

As a result, eradication of hydrilla in Raystown Lake is impossible. However, aquatic herbicide treatments can be applied to **control populations within Raystown Lake and reduce its spread to other lakes and rivers.**



CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

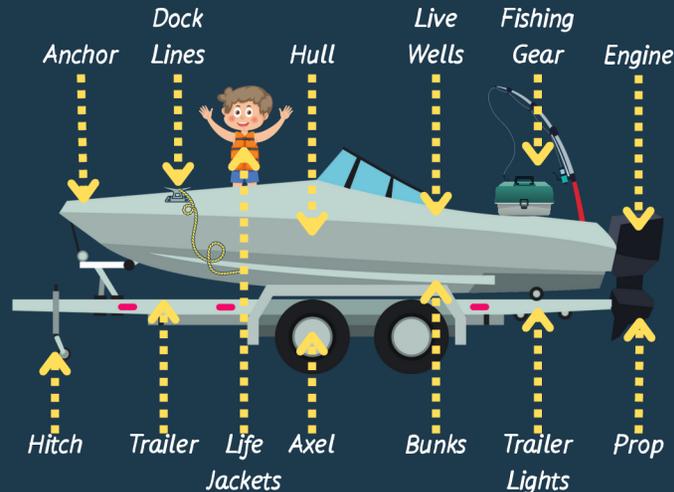
What can you do to help prevent the spread of invasives?

There are many other detrimental aquatic invasive plants and animals besides hydrilla that are primarily spread by lake-users who accidentally transport them between bodies of water.

PREVENTION DEPENDS ON YOU!

- **CLEAN** off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access.
- **DRAIN** watercraft bilge, livewell, motor and other water-containing devices before leaving water access.
- **DRY** everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

ALWAYS inspect these parts of your boat, trailer, and fishing equipment after a day out on the lake (see below).



Learn More: <https://www.cleandraindry.org>

HYDRILLA MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES



AND IMPACTS OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ON LAKE ECOSYSTEMS



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Baltimore District

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PRE TREATMENT

1

Why do we treat hydrilla?

When left uncontrolled, hydrilla and other aquatic invasive plants can have significant detrimental impacts in the following ways:

- **Reducing Biodiversity** by outcompeting native plant species for sunlight, nutrients, and space.
- **Altering Water Quality** by *decreasing* dissolved oxygen and water flow and *increasing* pH, sedimentation, and water temperature.
- **Disrupting Wildlife Behavior** by creating inhospitable conditions that they cannot live in.
- **Increasing Mosquito Populations** by creating ideal breeding habitat near the water's surface.
- **Impacting Recreation Activities** by growing in dense mats that obstruct boating, swimming, and fishing.

DURING TREATMENT

2

How do we treat hydrilla?

To control hydrilla, we use aquatic herbicides applied at rates that target hydrilla while avoiding impacts to native plant species. The treatments are evenly applied across a specific treatment block using clay pellets. The pellets slowly dissolve and release herbicides over the course of a few weeks.

How does the treatment work?

Herbicide treatment takes a three-fold approach:

- Targets the plant's ability to photosynthesize (make food for itself), **preventing it from growing.**
- Destroys the plant's energy reserves, **preventing it from reproducing.**
- Disrupts the plant's root system, **preventing it from returning** in future years.

POST TREATMENT

3

Treatment Timeline

Within 1 month of treatment → Hydrilla starts to show signs of distress, including discoloration and wilting.
Within 3 months → Hydrilla disappears from the treatment block.
Within 12 months → Native plant species that were previously outcompeted by hydrilla start to return. Staff members conduct surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment.

What happens to fish habitat?

Contrary to popular belief, hydrilla **does not** provide a long-term, beneficial habitat for fish species. Fish may utilize hydrilla early in its growth stages, but as the plant quickly grows out of control, it creates inhospitable conditions. The treatment process may *temporarily* disrupt fish habitats, but it creates *long-term* benefits for the lake's biodiversity and water quality.

