



# Aquatic Invasive Plants and Their Look-Alikes

A specimen-based guide to identification  
in the Great Lakes Region

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This identification guide was written to assist landowners, land managers, and citizen scientists in identifying aquatic invasive species. To provide accurate reports to facilitate Early Detection Rapid Response, we must first accurately identify invading species.

With this guide, you can be confident in knowing the differences between aquatic invasive species and their look-alikes in the Great Lakes Region.

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Whenever possible, this resource makes use of herbarium specimens and their associated data. Photos used include live and pressed plants. Distribution maps for each species were created from occurrence and collection records and may not reflect the entire geographic range of every species.

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In this guide, invasive species appear in red and native species in black. 'Aquatic' refers to emergent and submersed plants, as well as those that grow at the water's edge.

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To see more digitized specimens of aquatic invaders and their look-alikes, please visit the Great Lakes Invasives Network portal at [www.greatlakesinvasives.org](http://www.greatlakesinvasives.org).