# **Aquatic Weeds In the Delta**



#### DBW has identified the following weeds as potential problems in the Delta



**Curlyleaf pondweed** 



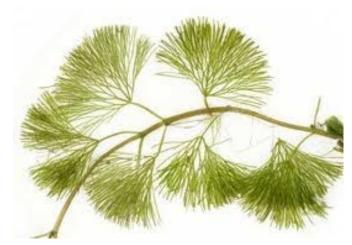
Eurasian watermilfoil



Waterprimrose



Coontail



**Fanwort** 

If you see any of these plants in the Delta - LET US KNOW!

Contact the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) at (888) 326-2822 or pubinfo@parks.ca.gov

## **Curlyleaf pondweed**

(Potamogeton crispus)

#### **Description**

- · Leaves are floating and/or submersed
- Wavy, stiff and crinkled leaves 50-76 mm long
- Develop turions (specialized stem buds that survive unfavorable conditions)
- Turions resemble brown pinecones 7-25 mm long
- Native to Eurasia

**Growth Period:** Adapted to grow under cold conditions. Foliage dies as plants become dormant in summer

**Habitat:** ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, reservoirs, irrigation ditches, and marshy areas

### **Eurasian watermilfoil**

(Myriophyllum spicatum)

### **Description**

- Finely dissected and whorled leaves with more than 12 pairs of leaflets (fine divisions on leaf)
- Stems to 4 m long, becoming emersed only while flowering
- · Stems and growing tips often red-tinged
- Does not develop turions
- · Native to Eurasia, northern Africa

**Growth Period:** spring - fall. Plants can die back in winter or remain green

**Habitat:** ponds, lakes rivers, streams canals and ditches

### Coontail

(Ceratophyllum demersum)

#### **Description**

- Submersed with firm, forked bottlebrush-like leaves and stems to 2.5 m long
- Plants lack roots and are free-floating or anchored by specialized buried stems

**Growth Period:** Germinate in spring, slow growth through winter

**Habitat:** ponds, slow-flowing streams and ditches

### **Fanwort**

(Cabomba caroliniana)

#### **Description**

- Submersed, rooted to free-floating perennial
- Opposite leaves on short stalks without tothed margins
- · Leaves are fan-shaped

**Growth Period:** Flower May - Sept

**Habitat:** ponds, slow-flowing streams and ditches

### Waterprimrose

(Ludwigia spp.)

#### **Description**

- Floating to emergent perennial with stems to 3 m long
- Stem and leaf veins often reddish
- Leaves alternate, usually clustered and oblong or ovate.
- Trumpet shaped flowers, yellow, sometimes white

**Growth Period:** Flower May- October. Biology poorly understood.

**Habitat:** ditches irrigation channels, streambanks, ponds, marshes, and lake margins

#### **Control Options for Residents\*:**

<u>Hand removal:</u> Pull plants from roots. Collect all fragments.

<u>Diver Assisted Hand Removal:</u> Hire SCUBA divers to removal plants.

<u>Mechanical Removal:</u> Hire an aquatic mechanical harvesting company.

Benthic Barriers (weed covers): Use physical covers over aquatic weeds to prevent growth.

\*Residents that opt to use these control methods do so at their own risk. DBW does not assume any liability for injuries or damages that may occur while residents implement these methods.

\*Note that only DBW and its partner agencies are legally authorized to use the selected herbicides. Residents are cautioned not to apply these herbicides on their own.

\*Referenced from Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants: A Best Management Practices Handbook, 3rd edition, *Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation* http://www.aquatics.org/bmp.html.