# If at first you don't succeed ...



# ... cry, cry, again???

# (How to stop invasive aquatic plants in New England)

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#### **Aquatic Plant Management**

- a. What is aquatic plant management?
  - 1. management (general definition): the judicious use of means to accomplish an end; the act of directing; guidance; control
    - a. judicious: proceeding from good sense or judgment
    - b. end: the state of affairs that a plan is intended to achieve
  - 2. aquatic plant management (to the public): The use of a *planned strategy* for *controlling the growth* of aquatic plants, to *provide a beneficial product or service* for people.
    - can involve indigenous or nonindigenous species
  - 3. aquatic plant management (to biologists): To reduce or eliminate the adverse ecological impacts of invasive aquatic plant species on natural communities.

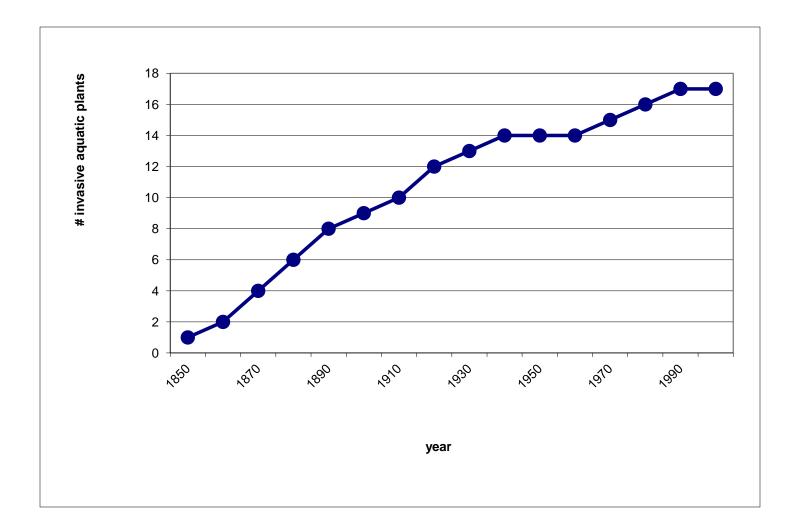
- involves only nonindigenous species

In the purest sense, the ultimate management goal is to completely eliminate invasive species (or at least to achieve permanent control to maintain sub-nuisance levels).

## SO..... How are we doing?



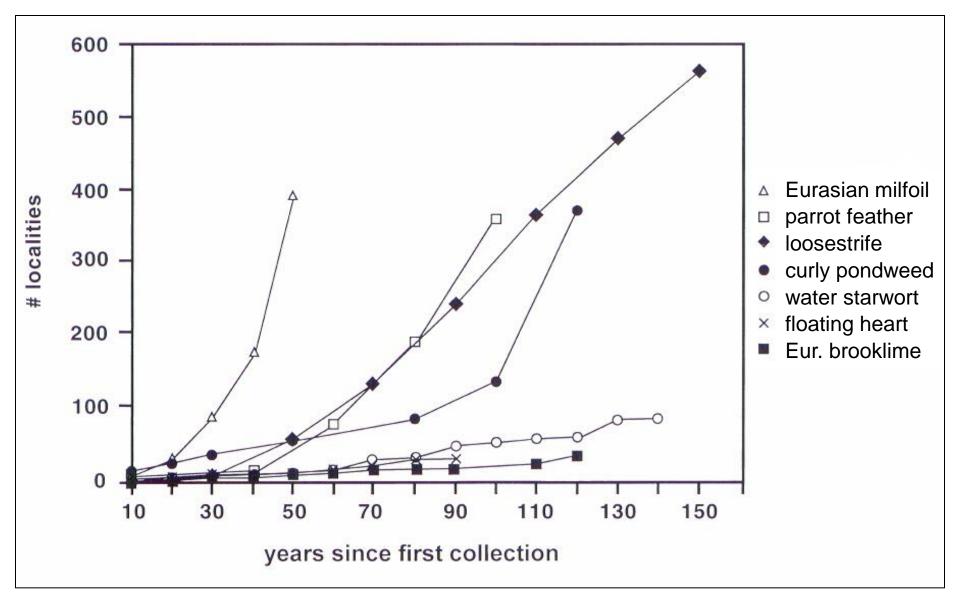
The number of invasive aquatic plant species in the northeastern United States has increased progressively during the past 150 years (Les, 2002).



*Table 1.* Major nonindigenous aquatic plants in southern New England. Within categories, species are listed chronologically by their earliest reliable record for North America ('earliest NA'). Dates for the earliest reliable record in southern New England ('earliest SNE') and the most recent collection in southern New England ('recent SNE') are provided (see Appendix I). References are footnoted. 'Recent SNE' dates were obtained from specimens collected by the authors or available in New England herbaria.

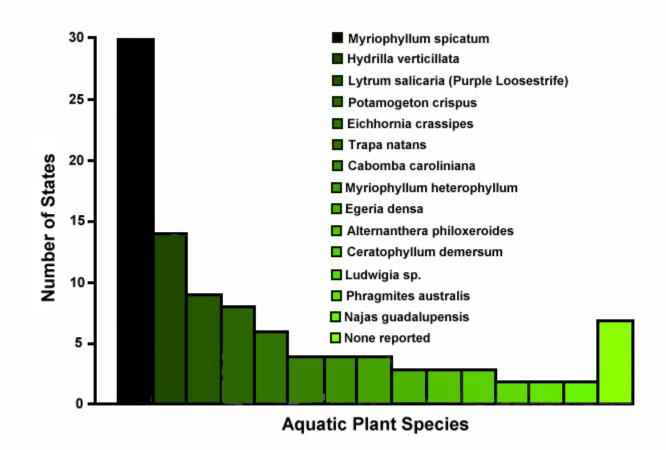
List of species	Earliest NA	Earliest SNE	Recent SNE
Category I: Probably native but kno	wn only from recent historical records		
Najus guadalupensis	Native	Native? (1904, Nantucket I.) <sup>a</sup>	1998
Category II: Native to North Americ	ca but nonindigenous in New England		
Cabomba caroliniana	Native	1920 (Hatfield, MA) <sup>b</sup>	1998
Myriophyllum heterophyllum	Native	1932 (Bridgeport, CT) <sup>c</sup>	1998
Limnobium spongia	Native	1998 (Mansfield, CT) <sup>d</sup>	1998
Category III: Nonindigenous to Non	th America		
Acorus calamus	<1762*	<1893*	1998
Nasturtium officinale	<1826 <sup>e,*</sup>	1831 (New Haven, CT) <sup>f</sup>	1998
Potamogeton crispus	1859 (Wilmington, DE) <sup>g</sup>	1880 (Middlesex Co., MA) <sup>g</sup>	1998
Marsilea quadrifolia	1860 (Bantam Lake, CT) <sup>h</sup>	1860 (Bantam Lake, CT) <sup>h</sup>	1998
Callitriche stagnalis	1861 (New York) <sup>i</sup>	1911 (Barnstable Co., MA) <sup>i</sup>	1998
Veronica beccabunga	1876 (Hudson Co., NJ) <sup>j</sup>	1879 (King's Co., NY) <sup>j</sup>	1998
Trapa natans	<1879 (Middlesex Co., MA) <sup>k</sup>	<1879 (Middlesex Co., MA) <sup>k</sup>	1998
Nymphoides peltata	1882 (Winchester, MA) <sup>1</sup>	1882 (Winchester, MA) <sup>1</sup>	1961
Egeria densa	1893 (Long Island, NY) <sup>m</sup>	1893 (Long Island, NY) <sup>m</sup>	1998
Myriophyllum aquaticum	1890 (Haddonfield, NJ) <sup>n</sup>	1929 (SE New York) <sup>n</sup>	1996
Butomus umbellatus	1905 (St. Lawrence R., QUE) <sup>o</sup>	1943 (New Haven, CT) <sup>p</sup>	1994
Najas minor	1934 (Hudson R., NY) <sup>q</sup>	1974 (Berkshire Co., MA) <sup>r</sup>	1998
Myriophyllum spicatum	1942 (Washington, DC) <sup>s</sup>	1971 (Berkshire Co., MA) <sup>t</sup>	1998
Hydrilla verticillata	1960 (E. Florida) <sup>u</sup>	1989 (Mystic, CT) <sup>v</sup>	1998

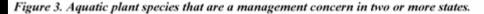
<sup>a</sup>Bicknell 1908; <sup>b</sup>Manning 1937; <sup>c</sup>specimen (CONN); <sup>d</sup>specimen (CONN); <sup>e</sup>Torrey 1826; <sup>f</sup>Ives et al. 1831; <sup>g</sup>Stuckey 1979; <sup>h</sup>Gray 1860; <sup>i</sup>Philbrick et al. 1998; <sup>j</sup>Les and Stuckey 1985; <sup>k</sup>Davenport 1879; <sup>1</sup>Stuckey 1973; <sup>m</sup>Weatherby 1932; <sup>n</sup>Couch and Nelson 1985b; <sup>o</sup>Knowlton 1923; <sup>p</sup>Countryman 1970; <sup>q</sup>Clausen 1936; <sup>r</sup>Weatherbee 1996; <sup>s</sup>Couch and Nelson 1985a; <sup>t</sup>specimen (NASC); <sup>u</sup>Blackburn et al. 1969; <sup>v</sup>Les et al. 1997; <sup>\*</sup>uncertain (see text).



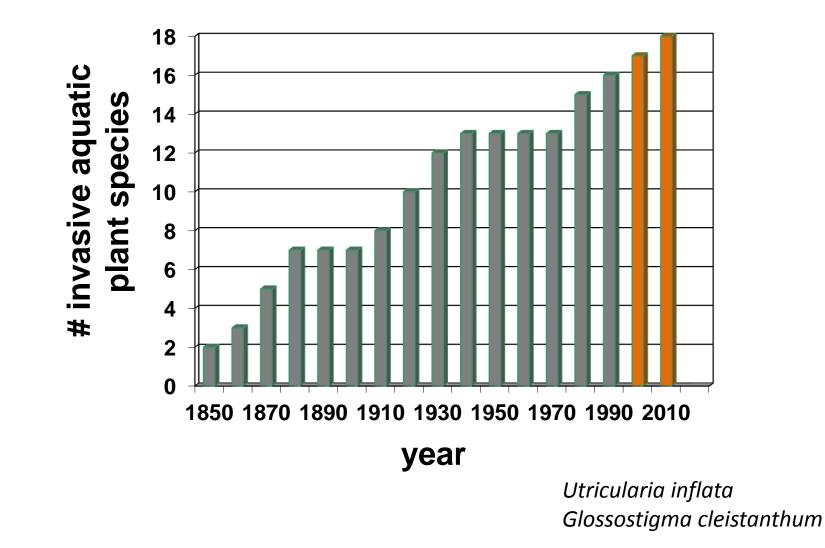
*Figure 2.* Collection curves for seven nonindigenous aquatic plants in southern New England. Curves were produced by plotting the number of specimen collections made in 10-year intervals relative to the time of first observance. Species characterized by steeply rising collection curves correlate with those species that are most often the focus of aquatic plant control programs; whereas, those with flatter collection curves are rarely reported as nuisance species (see text).

### Problem aquatic plants in the USA (from Aquatics 20(4):15-18; 1998)





### On average, one new invasive aquatic plant has been added to the flora of the northeastern United States each decade for the past 160 years.



### Utricularia inflata



#### *Utricularia inflata* in Connecticut/MA:

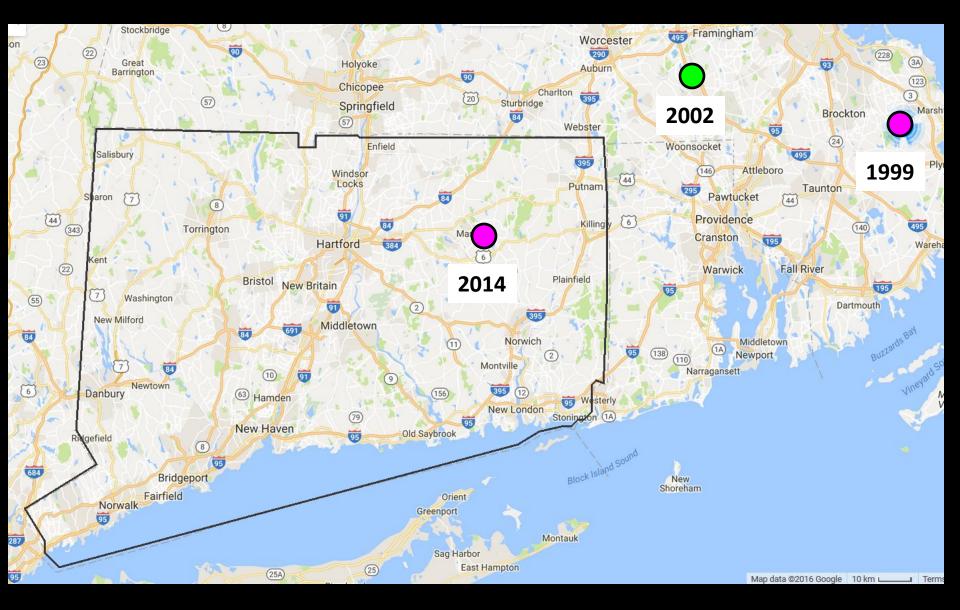
#### Massachusetts:

1999: Furnace Pond (Carver)2002: Louisa Lake (Milford)

#### **Connecticut**:

2014: Echo Lake (Mansfield) [2015, 2016]

### Utricularia inflata in Connecticut/MA (CONN records)



So far only one site every 5 years.

It is difficult to identify *U*. *inflata* when only the submersed foliage is present



### Hydrilla verticillata



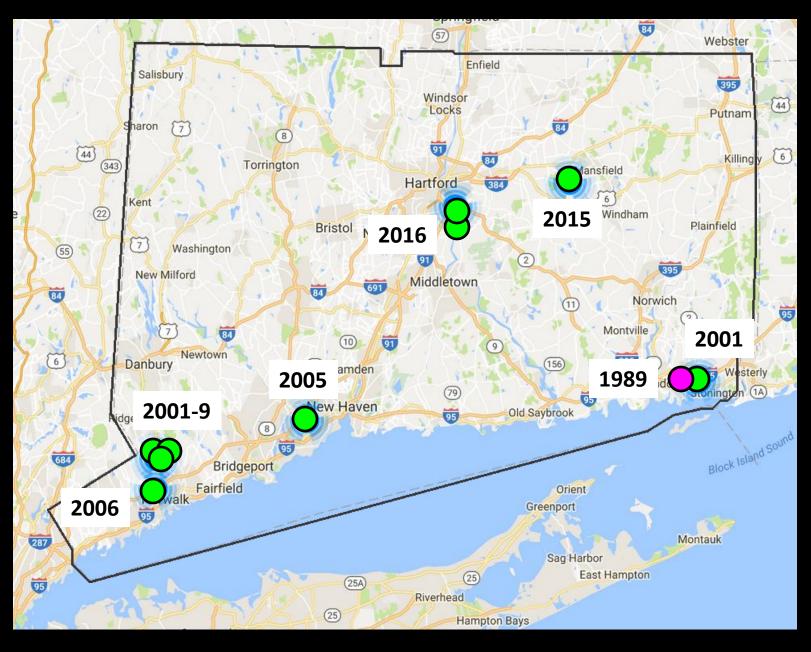
#### *Hydrilla verticillata* in Connecticut:

- 1989: Mystic Seaport (Mystic) [1996, 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007]
- 2001: Mason's Island (Stonington) Quiet Lake (Wilton)
- 2003: Hirsch Property (Wilton)
- 2005: Von Kleydorf's Pond (Wilton) Cozsa Property (Orange)
- 2006: Silvermine River (Norwalk)
- 2009: Crystal Lake (Wilton)
- 2015: Coventry Lake (Coventry)
- 2016: Keeney Cove (Glastonbury)\*\*\*
- 2016: Connecticut River (Glastonbury)

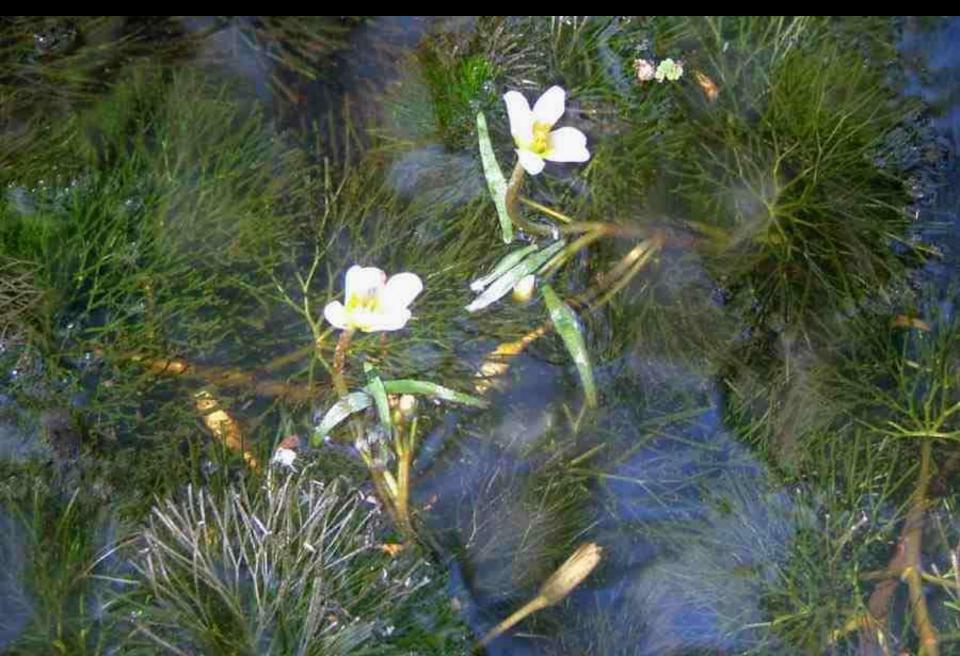
Eleven sites within 27 years – *a new locality reported every 2.5 years* 

red = post-management dates
\*\*\*site of 1999 Trapa record

### Hydrilla verticillata in Connecticut (CONN records)



### Cabomba caroliniana



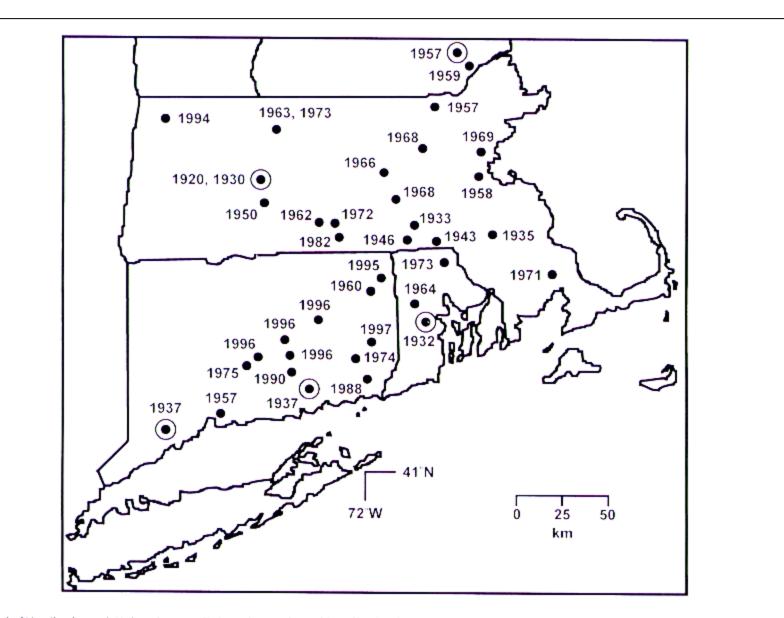
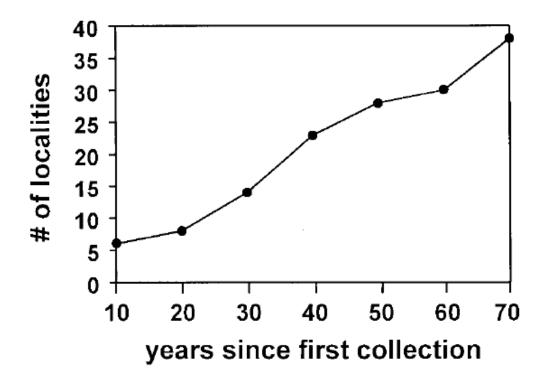


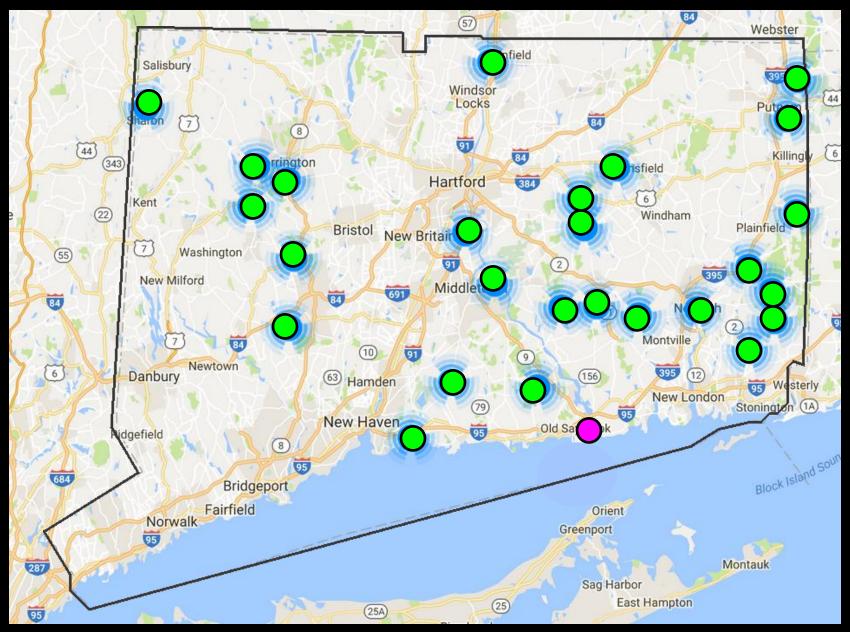
Figure 4. Distribution of Cabomba caroliniana in southern New England derived from specimens observed at regional herbaria (collection dates shown). Double circles indicate the oldest known specimen record(s) for that state. The distribution of Cabomba in Connecticut is similar to that of Mvriophyllum heterophyllum (see Figure 5).



*Figure 3.* Collection curve for *Cabomba caroliniana* in southern New England (data from Figure 4) indicates continued spread in the region with no sign of abatement. *Cabomba* is indigenous to the southeastern United States and was first found in southern New England in 1920.

#### Cabomba caroliniana in Connecticut:

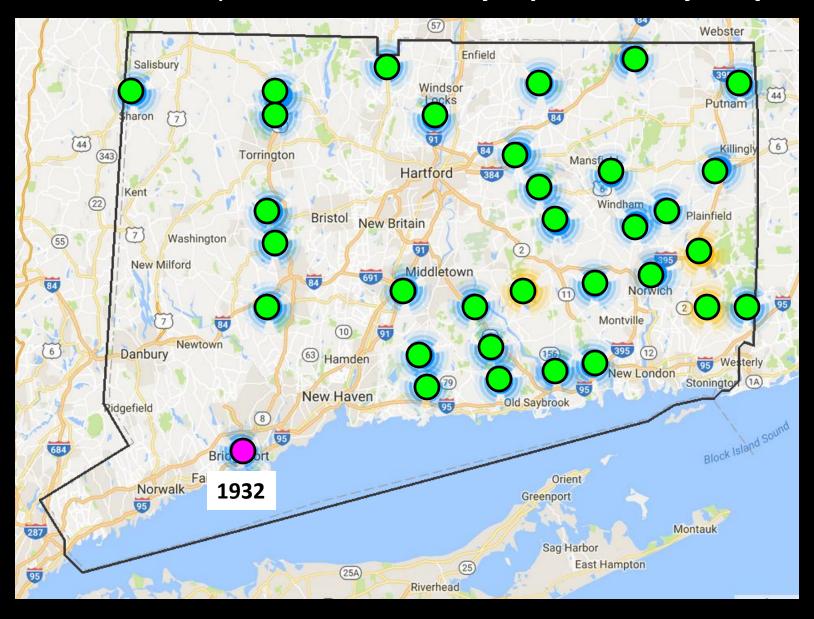
39 sites within 89 years – *a new locality reported every 2.1 years* 



### Myriophyllum heterophyllum



#### *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* in Connecticut: <u>45 sites within 84 years – *a new locality reported every 1.9 years*</u>





#### June 2006]

#### Les et al.—North Ame

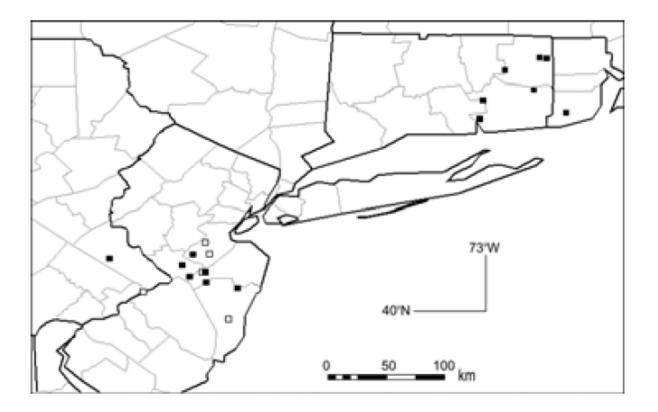


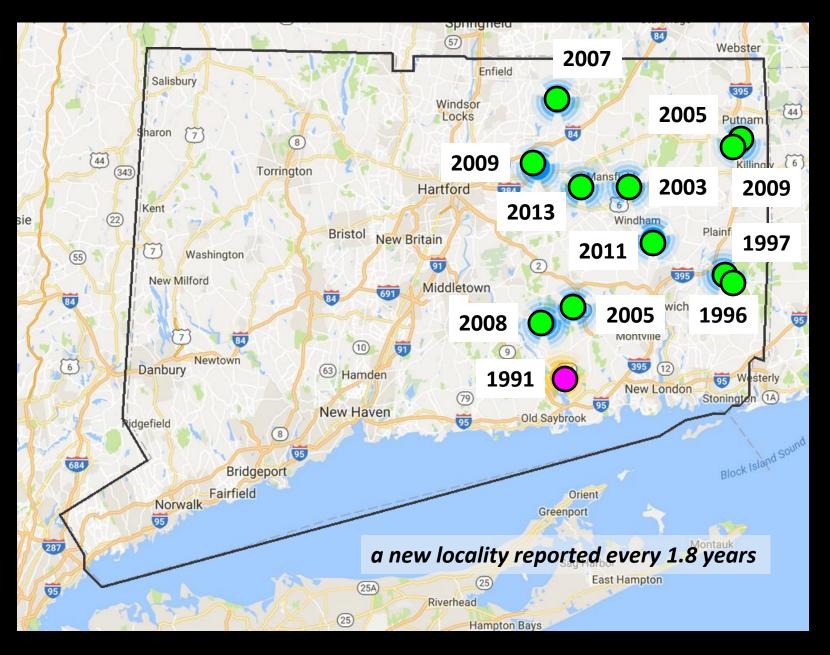
Fig. 3. Map showing the location of 19 sites where *Glossostigma* has been found in North America (see Appendix). Closed squares indicate populations surveyed for molecular analysis; open squares indicate populations not surveyed.

#### Glossostigma cleistanthum in Connecticut:

- 1991: Hamburg Cove (Lyme) [1992, 1998, 2005, 2008]
- 1996: Hopeville Pond (Griswold) [1997]
- 2002: Pachaug River (Griswold)
- 2003: Mansfield Hollow (Mansfield) [2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015]
- 2005: Lake Hayward (East Haddam) [2007] Chase Reservoir (East Killingly) Alexander Lake (Killingly) [2009]
- 2007: Pachaug Pond (Griswold) Crystal Lake (Ellington)
- 2008: Bashan Lake (East Haddam)
- 2009: Lower Bolton Lake (Bolton)
- 2011: Shetucket River (Scotland)
- 2013: Coventry Lake (Coventry)\*\*\*
- 2015: Glasgo Pond (Voluntown)

14 sites within 25 years – *a new locality reported every 1.8 years* 

### Glossostigma cleistanthum in Connecticut (CONN records)



### Trapa natans

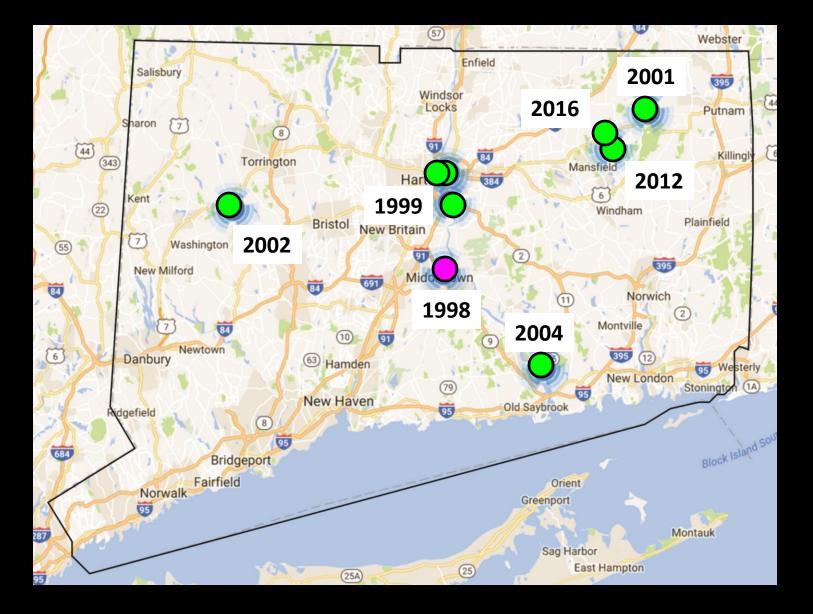


#### Trapa natans in Connecticut:

- 1998: Connecticut River (Portland)
- 1999: Keeney Cove (Glastonbury) Hockanum River (East Hartford) [2002, 2005] Riverside Park (Hartford) [2005]
- 2001: Westford Road (Eastford)
- 2002: Bantam Lake (Morris)
- 2004: Abigail's Hole (Lyme)
- 2012: McLaughlin Pond (Mansfield) [2015]
- 2016: Anderson pond (Mansfield)

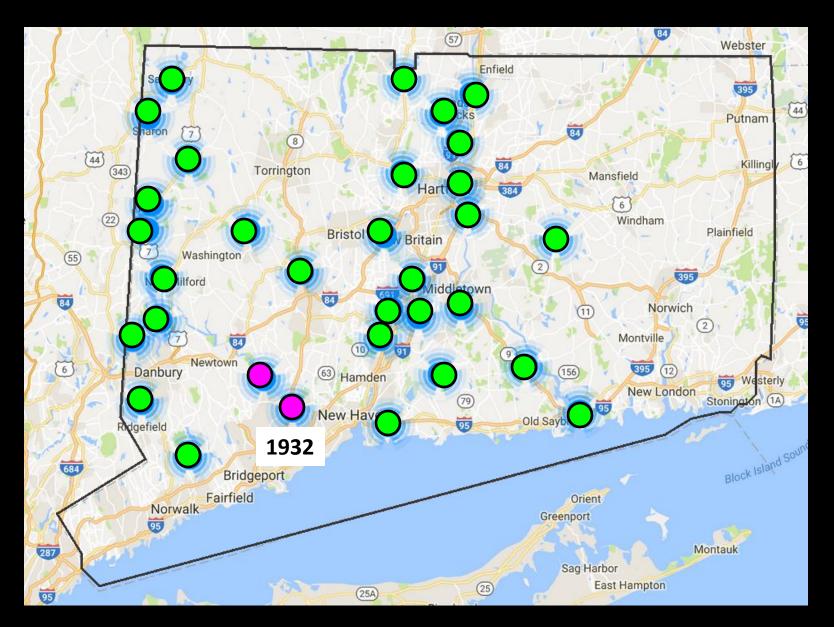
Nine sites within 16 years – *a new locality reported every 1.8 years* 

### Trapa natans in Connecticut (CONN records)



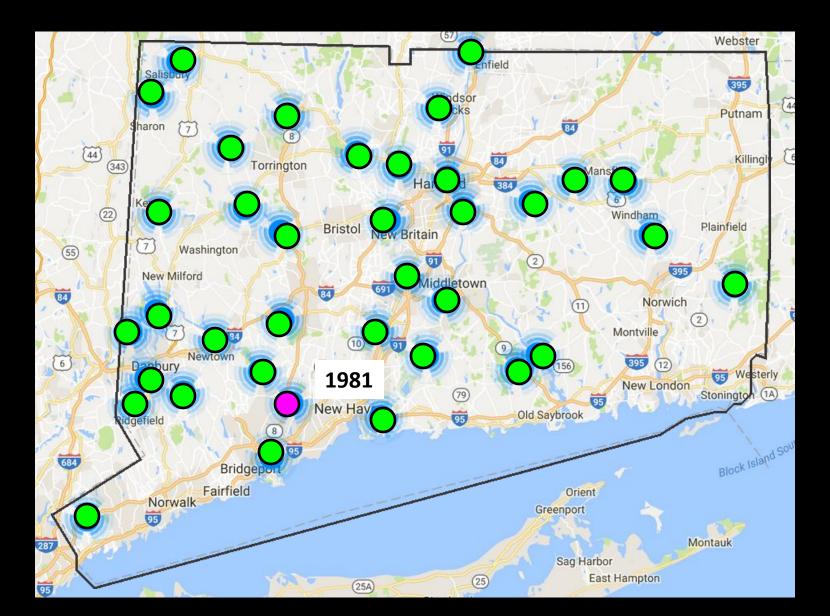
Potamogeton crispus

# Potamogeton crispus in Connecticut: 52 sites within 84 years – a new locality reported every 1.6 years



### Myriophyllum spicatum

### *Myriophyllum spicatum* in Connecticut: 51 sites within 35 years – *a new locality reported every 0.69 years*

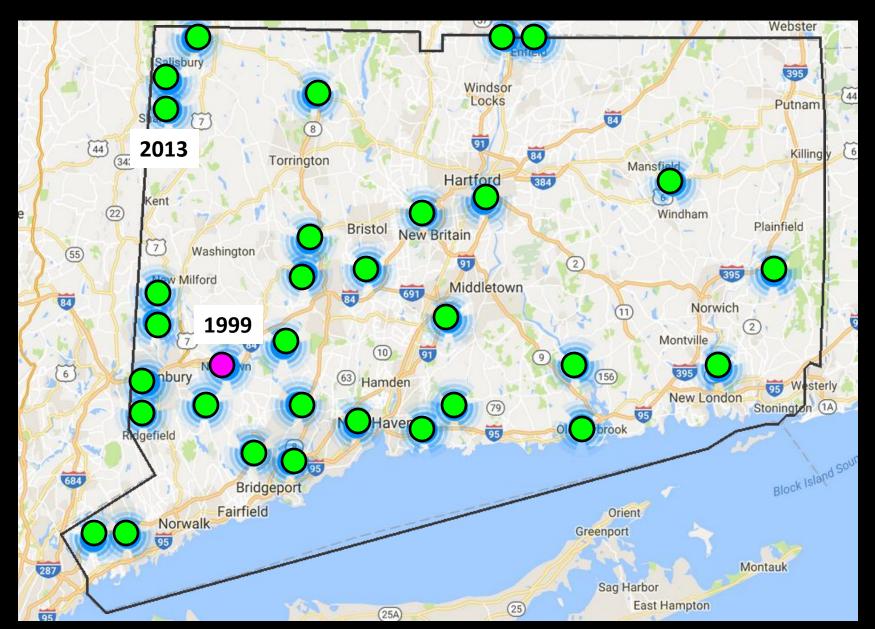


### Najas minor



#### *Najas minor* in Connecticut:

45 sites within 21 years – *a new locality reported every 0.47 years* 



### The spread of invasive aquatic plants in Connecticut

Species	# new sites/year
Utricularia inflata	0.20
Hydrilla verticillata	0.40
Cabomba caroliniana	0.48
Myriophyllum heterophyllum	0.53
Glossostigma cleistanthum	0.56
Trapa natans	0.56
Potamogeton crispus	0.63
Myriophyllum spicatum	1.45
Najas minor	2.13
Average:	0.77
	(~ 7 new records/yr)

#### Does early detection help?

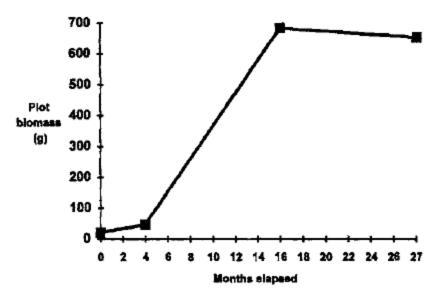
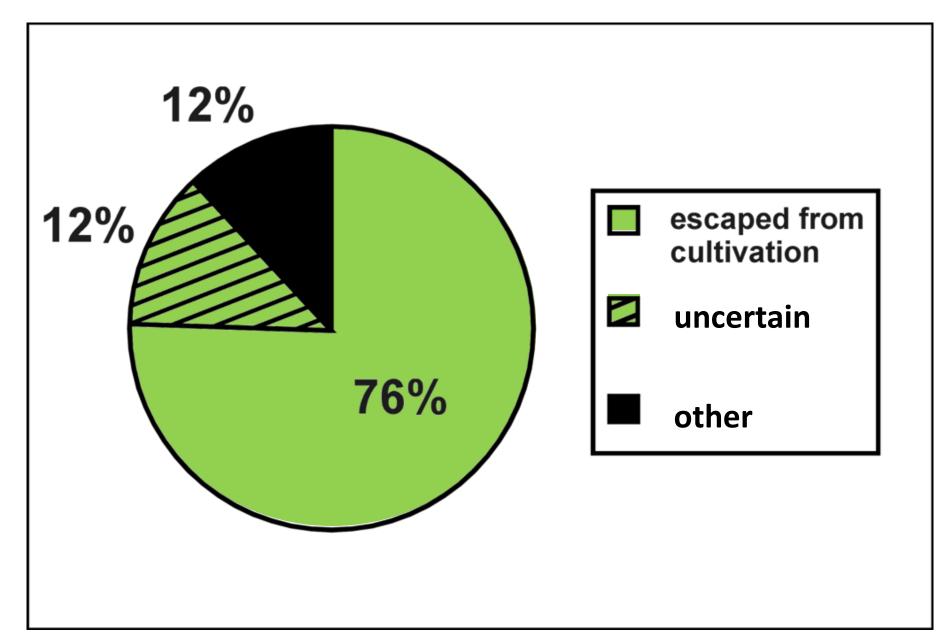


Figure 1. Asexual reproduction in aquatic plants occurs rapidly. Biomass (grams of dry weight) measured in 2 m  $\times$  2 m field plots planted initially with 100 small fragments of Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). Within 16 months, vegetative growth had reached maximum biomass levels (carrying capacity). Biomass had more than doubled during the first four-month growing season (from Les et al. 1988). "Over three-quarters of all aquatic plant introductions in the northeastern United States have resulted from careless cultivation practices" (Les, 2002).



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# Enacted in 1900 [amended in 2008]. Prohibits illegal import of plants in violation of State or international law

#### Lacey Act: Frequently Asked Questions (April 28, 2016)

### What are the penalties for violating the amended Lacey Act?

• Civil Penalties –monetary penalties up to \$10,000 **may** be imposed, **depending on** the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited act committed and the violator's culpability, **ability to pay**, and such other matters as justice may require

- Criminal Penalties fines, penalties and potential incarceration
  - A felony or misdemeanor depending on, primarily, the **defendant's knowledge** of the underlying illegality of the product at issue
    - misdemeanors: \$100,000 for individuals or \$200,000 for organizations, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, for each violation.
    - felonies: \$250,000 for individuals or \$500,000 for organizations or twice the amount of the gross gain or loss, or imprisoned up to 5 years, or both, for each violation.
- Forfeiture dispossession of the plant, fish, or wildlife in question

In addition, any person who commits a marking offense or violates the declaration requirements, except for knowing violators, may be assessed a penalty up to \$250.

### Will there be an "enforcement plan?" Will specific countries/products be targeted?

"There will not be an "enforcement plan" ... "

# Will additional resources be made available for enforcement? Will additional investigators and prosecutors be hired?

"Congress has not allocated any specific funds ... to enforce the new provisions."

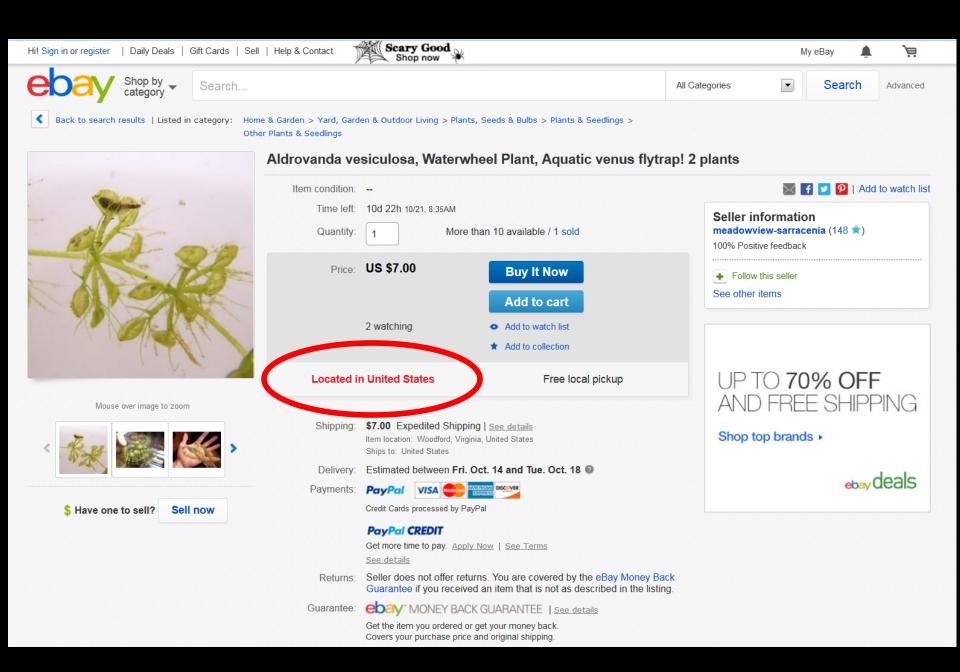
### Aldrovanda vesciculosa – coming soon to your local bog!



Lamont, E. E., R. Sivertsen, C. Doyle & L. Adamec. 2013. Extant populations of Aldrovanda vesiculosa (Droseraceae) in the New World. J. Torrey Bot. Soc. 140: 517–522.

**Virginia Sites.** A few growers of carnivorous plants from north-central Virginia had small backyard ponds supporting several native species of *Utricularia*. During the late 1980s to early 1990s, some of these growers introduced dormant turions of *A*. *vesiculosa* from Japan into their backyard ponds.

**New Jersey Sites.** In 1999, Sivertsen planned and implemented an assisted colonization of *A. vesiculosa* in northern New Jersey because the action might save the genome for future studies and conservation initiatives if the species becomes extinct in its natural Old World habitats.



## What do YOU think should be done?





1) Invasions of nonindigenous aquatic plants have continued unchecked despite all efforts to curtail them; once introduced THEY WILL NOT GO AWAY

2) Nearly all invasive aquatic plants originate from specimens cultivated for water gardens and aquariums

3) Many new threats exist and will inevitably materialize unless the sale and distribution of nonindigenous aquatic plants is stopped. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS OUT OF THE REGION.

