

# Aquatic Weeds In the Delta



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



**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  
[AIS@parks.ca.gov](mailto:AIS@parks.ca.gov)

## Eurasian watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

### Description

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

**Growth Period:** spring - fall, flowers June - September; 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, bottle-brush-like leaves and stems up to 2.5 m long
- Plants lack roots, and are free-floating or anchored by specialized buried stems
- Develop turions that consist of dense clusters of scale-like leaves at the stem tips

**Growth Period:** germinates in spring, flowers June - October, slow growth through winter

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

## Waterprimrose

(*Ludwigia* spp.)

### Description

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

**Growth Period:** flowers March - October, varying with species; biology poorly understood

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

## Fanwort

(*Cabomba caroliniana*)

### Description

- Submersed, rooted to free-floating perennial
- Opposite leaves on short stalks without toothed margins
- Submersed leaves are fan-shaped
- Floating leaves are 1-3 cm long
- Introduced from the Eastern United States

**Growth Period:** flowers May - September

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

### Control Options for Residents\*:

Hand Removal: Pull plants from roots. Collect all fragments.

Diver Assisted Hand Removal: Hire SCUBA divers to remove plants.

Mechanical Removal: 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>.