Aquatic Weeds In the Delta

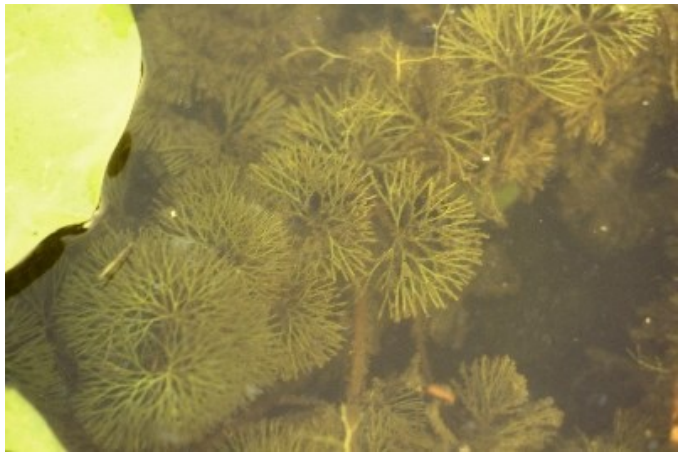
DBW has identified the following weeds as potential problems in the Delta

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 ais@parks.ca.gov

Image credits: Top left: Leslie Mehroff, University of Connecticut; Bottom left: Jack Kelly Clark; Top middle: University of Florida; Bottom middle: Texas A&M; Top right: Glenn Miller, Oregon Department of Agriculture

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

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

Coontail
(*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Description
- Submersed with firm, forked bottle-brush-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

Control Options for Residents*:
Hand removal: Pull plants from roots. Collect all fragments.
Diver Assisted Hand Removal: Hire SCUBA divers to removal 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.