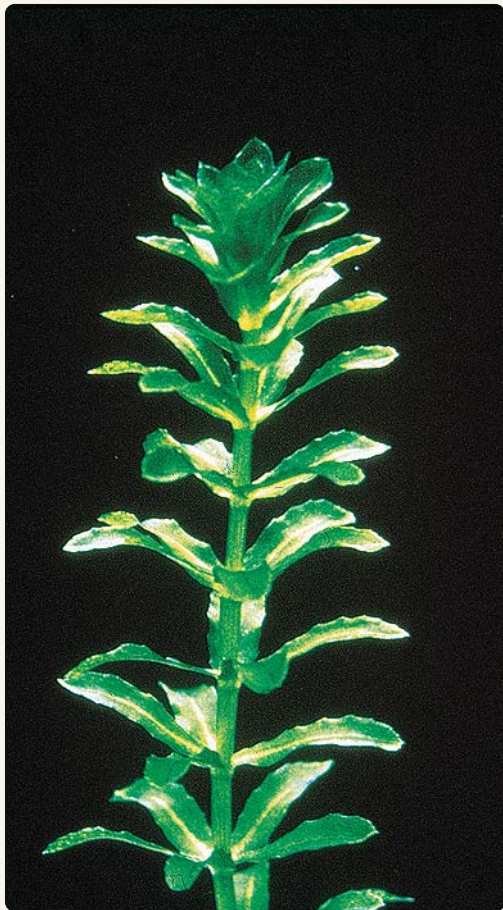


## Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)



Submerged  
Aquatic Plant



*Leaves have obvious toothed edges*

Hydrilla is a submerged perennial aquatic oxygen weed that can grow to 9 m tall in still or slow moving fresh water, tolerating low light and temperatures from 10-35°C.

Bottom rooted, the plant forms underground tubers on the tips of rhizomes, and also turions (thickened buds formed in the axils of the leaves). The thin, many-branching stems produce leaves arranged in whorls of 3-8 (usually 4-5) with obvious toothed edges. These characters help distinguish this plant from both Egeria and Canadian pondweed. Hydrilla flowers are small and inconspicuous, and seed is not produced in this country.

Turions and tubers act like seeds and can sprout to form new plants after mechanical control of Hydrilla beds.

Spread is primarily by stem fragmentation and the plant is easily transported to other waterways by machinery, boats and trailers or nets.

**Once established, Hydrilla is virtually impossible to eliminate. At present it occurs in only a few lakes in Hawkes Bay. Please don't help it spread. Contact your Regional Council if you think you have found this plant.**