



BRAZILIAN ELODEA

Egeria densa



- * Other names: Giant elodea
- * Brazilian elodea is a Class B noxious weed.
- * A submerged perennial aquatic weed, in the Hydrocharitaceae family.
- * This aquatic weed looks similar to the native *Elodea canadensis* (Common waterweed), but is much larger. Plants grow submerged rooted in the substrate. Stems are erect, cylindrical and about 1/10 of an inch in diameter. Leaves are sessile, about 1 to 2 ½ inches long in whorls of 3 to 6.
- * Brazilian elodea can be found growing in open ponds, lakes, streams, and wetlands. It can be found growing in depths of up to 20 feet.

- * Its dense underwater growth retards water flow, interfering with irrigation projects, hydroelectric utilities, and urban water supplies. It slows water traffic, and interferes with recreational and commercial activities such as boating, swimming, and fishing. It reduces the diversity of native plant seeds in lake bottoms, and increases sediment accumulation beneath the weed beds.
- * Brazilian elodea spreads via fragments of shoots and rhizomes. Stem fragments can take root in bottom mud or remain as free-floating mats. Vegetative plant fragments are dispersed with flooding, waterfowl, and human activities like fishing and boating.
- * In lakes where it is established, it out-competes Eurasian water milfoil and is more difficult to control than milfoil. Harvesting tends to spread the plant and many aquatic herbicides do not effectively control its growth.

CONTROL OPTIONS

- * The triploid (sterile) grass carp (white amur) is helpful as a biological control. This relatively nonselective fish will consume Brazilian elodea as one of its preferred diets.
- * Since Brazilian Elodea is an aquatic plant, the use of an herbicide formulated for aquatic settings is required.
Please note that aquatic herbicides are restricted for use in Washington State to licensed applicators only.

