



Brazilian elodea

(*Egeria densa*) The slender stems of *Egeria* are usually a foot or two long, but can be much longer. The small leaves are linear, about one inch long, and 1/4 inch wide. The leaf margins have very fine saw teeth that require a magnifying lens to see. Leaves occur in whorls of three to six around the stem. The flowers are on short stalks about one inch above the water. Flowers have three white petals and are about 3/4 inch across.


Parrotfeather

(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) The feather-like leaves are arranged around the stem in whorls of four to six. Parrotfeather has both submersed and emergent leaves. The bright green emergent leaves are two to five centimeters long and have six to 18 divisions per leaf. The emergent stems and leaves are the most distinctive trait of parrotfeather, as they can grow up to a foot above the water surface and look almost like small fir trees. Flowers are inconspicuous white flowers located in the axils of emergent leaves.


Noxious Weeds invade the Chehalis River

What are they?

Brazilian elodea *(Egeria densa)* is a submersed aquatic non native plant that forms large mats that reduce water flow, capture sediment, decrease oxygen, and increase water temperature.

Purple loosestrife *(Lythrum salicaria)* is an emergent aquatic non native plant that can rapidly degrade wetlands, reducing wildlife and fish habitat.

Parrotfeather *(Myriophyllum aquaticum)* is an emergent and submersed aquatic non native plant that forms dense stands that reduce water flow, and decrease oxygen levels.

Why are they a threat?

- Brazilian elodea and parrotfeather invade quickly in slow moving shallow shorelines typical in all of the Chehalis River main-stem and tributaries. Brazilian elodea reproduces by fragmentation; floating stems have roots every tenth node resulting in new infestations. Infestation size of Brazilian elodea in the Chehalis River has grown from 3 plants in 1997 to 25 acres in 2005.
- Purple loosestrife quickly spreads and forms vegetative mats that cover and crowd out native plants on shore lines and wetlands areas.
- All three of these non native plants displace native plants that are critical for wildlife and salmon habitats.

What can you do?

Never dispose of aquarium water, plants, etc. in any lake, stream or reservoir
Clean boats and fishing gear promptly after fishing or boating activities.
Learn to identify aquatic plants, watch for and report any suspected noxious weeds to your local weed control board.

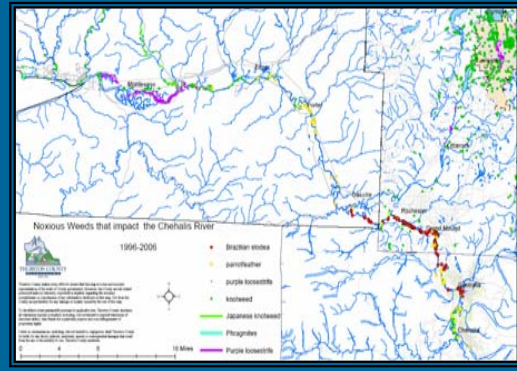


Purple loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*) The stalks are square, four or six sided, woody and can be 6 ft. or taller with several stalks on one plant. The leaves are linear with smooth edges and are covered with fine hairs. They are usually arranged opposite each other on pairs that alternate down the stalk. Individual flowers have five or six purple-magenta petals surrounding small, yellow centers that grow on long showy spikes made up of many individual flowers.

CHEHALIS RIVER AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT GROUP AFFILIATION

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board
Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board
Thurston Conservation District
The Nature Conservancy
Washington Department of Natural Resources-Natural Areas
Washington department of Agriculture-Knotweed program
Washington Department of Natural Resources-Aquatics Division, Invasive Species
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Black River Refuge
Chehalis River Council
Quinault Department of Fisheries
The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Washington Department of Ecology-Aquatic Weeds Program
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service-Chehalis River Program



Distribution data collected from Thurston County Noxious Weed Control, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control, The Nature Conservancy, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.