



ELODEA

Submersed aquatic plants in the genus *Elodea* are **not native** to Alaska. *Elodea* survives freezing, and can spread by tiny fragments.

These traits make it extremely invasive.

Elodea has been confirmed in lakes and slow-moving rivers/streams in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Cordova. It's a popular aquarium plant in Alaska and can spread if released: waders, boats, trailers, floatplanes, and equipment can act as vectors.

Elodea will cause serious, irreversible harm to fish and aquatic habitats in Alaska if allowed to spread unchecked.

Please keep your eyes open for this invasive aquatic plant

Flowers: Small (~ ¼-inch across), white flowers occur at the ends of long, thread-like stalks.

Leaf: Unlike native species, leaves are mostly arranged in whorls of 3 (occasionally 4) and densely packed along the stem.

Stem: Long, slender, generally branched typically lighter in color than leaves.

Roots: Tufts of fibrous roots.



Individual plants vary widely in appearance depending on growing conditions: some are bushy; others have few leaves and weak stems.

See back for more examples!

If you find *Elodea*:

- ◆ **Note its location:** GPS coordinates and/or a mark on a map with description.
- ◆ **Note its habitat:** did you find it in a river or lake? how deep was the water? was the water clear or slightly muddy?
- ◆ **Take a specimen:** At minimum, take a photo. Take as much of the entire plant as you can, including the flower if present. Put it in a zip lock bag and store in a cool place. If you don't have a bag, press it in a book or inside wax paper and keep it somewhere safe so it doesn't break up. Aquatic plants dry quickly.
- ◆ **Report it:** Call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's invasive species hotline: At that time someone will let you know where to send the sample. **1-877-INVASIV (468-2748)**



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

CLEAN-Rinse and remove visible mud, plant debris from boats, trailers, floatplanes, and gear.

DRAIN-Empty coolers, bilge pumps, buckets and wring out gear before leaving a waterbody.

DRY-Completely dry equipment and gear between visits to fresh water systems.

Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water.

Individual plants vary widely in appearance depending on growing conditions



The photo above was taken underwater in Chena Lake. Here *Elodea* is dense and thick and grows in a near monoculture.



Elodea from the Chena River.



Elodea collected at Chena Lake.



This is a thick *Elodea* monoculture in Chena Slough near Peede Road. Water was flowing slowly here and the *Elodea* almost filled the slough basin.



Elodea in Chena Slough coated with brown sediment, which makes it harder to see and to identify.



Elodea strands mixed in with some other species in shallow water near Nordale Road, in Chena Slough. Here *Elodea* looks very different than it does where the water is deeper and flowing more slowly.