

The Invasive Species Coloring Book

What is an invasive species?

An invasive species is a plant, animal or disease that has been introduced to a new environment where it does not belong, and causes harm to that new environment.

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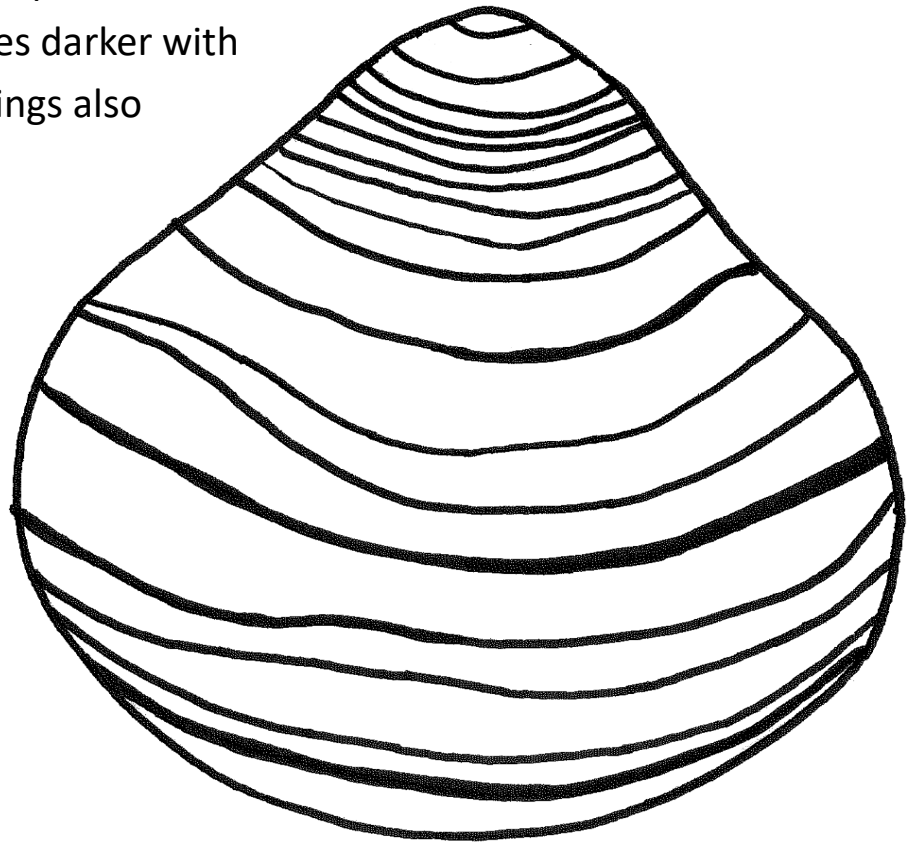
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Asian Clam

(Corbicula flumina)



Adult asian clam are typically 5 cm in size and have a triangular shape. The outer shell is olive/yellow to black/brown in color, with 1-3 brown/purple radial bands. The shell becomes darker with age and white erosion rings also develop.



Native to the fresh waters of Asia, these clams are believed to have been brought here as a food source in the 1930's. Juveniles can pass thru filters, which can damage water treatment systems and cause economic harm.

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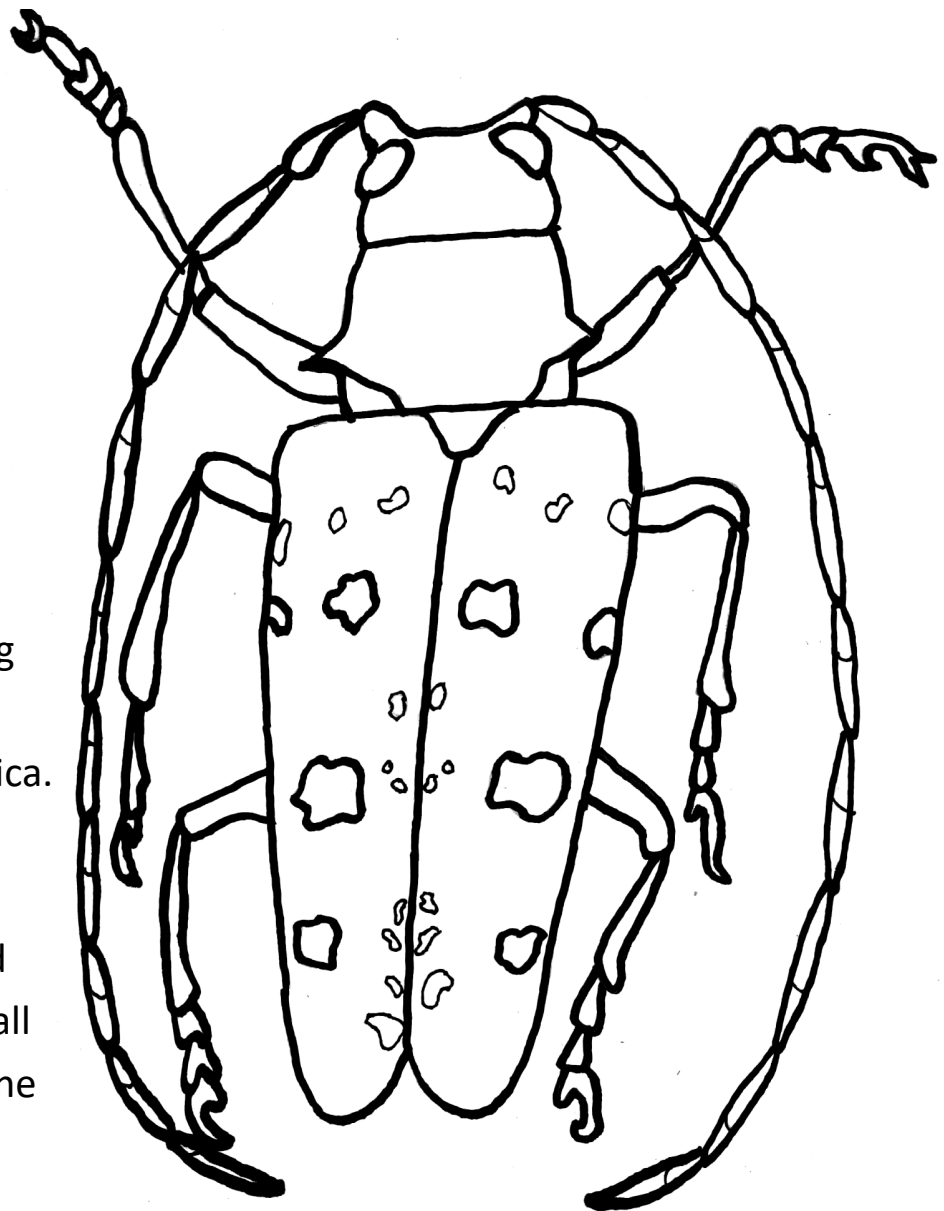
Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)



(Anoplophora glabripennis)

ALB has a glossy black body with white spots, and adults are 3/4" to 1" long. Antennae are roughly 2 times the length of the body and have distinctive black and white bands. Their legs and antennae often have a bluish tinge.

ALB attacks hardwoods including maple, birch and ash, and can survive throughout North America. Symptoms of ALB include large, round exit holes (3/8" to 3/4" in diameter), presence of frass and yellowing leaves. Please report all suspected sightings directly to the DEC by calling 1-866-702-9938.



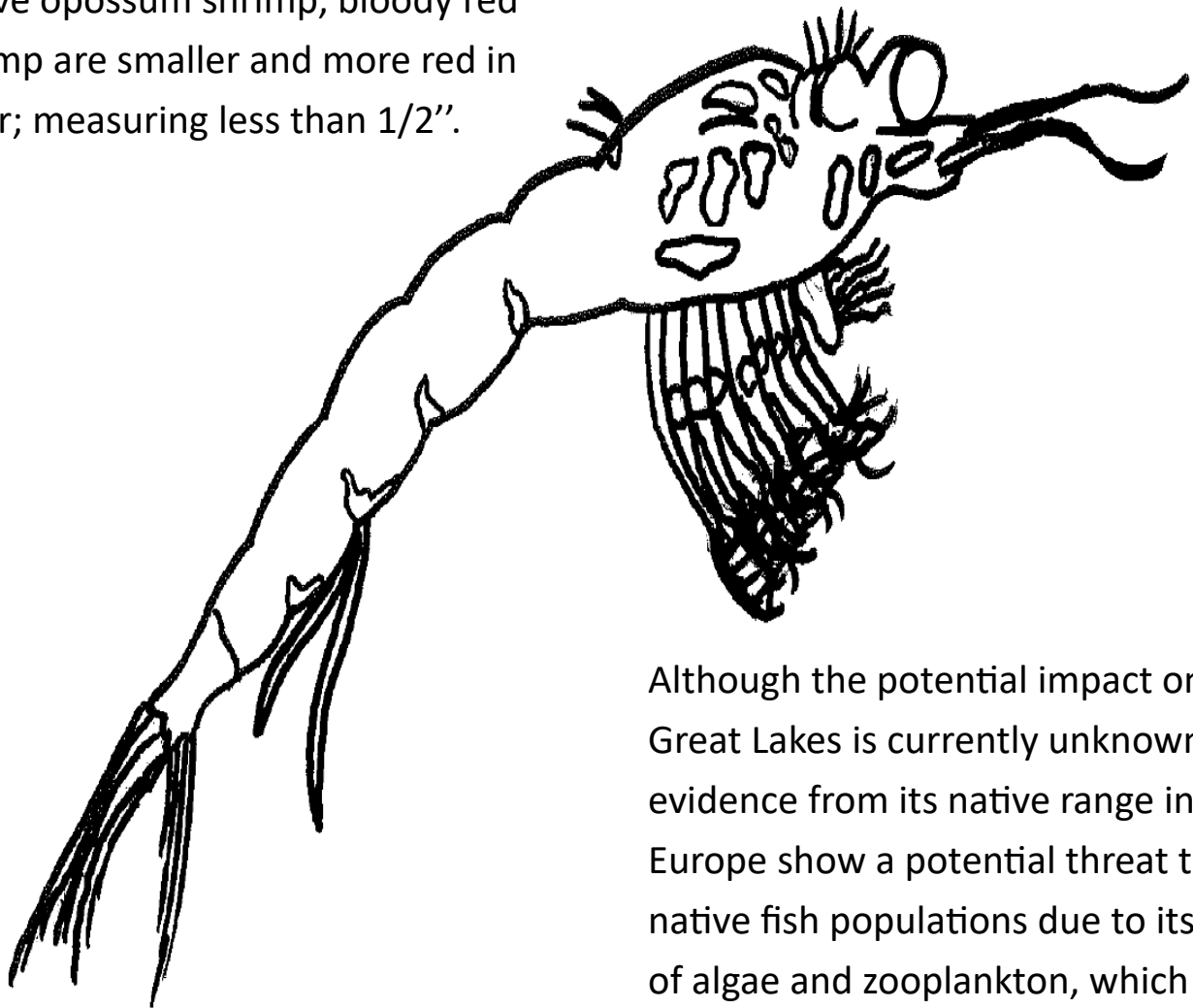
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Bloody Red Shrimp

(Hemimysis anomala)



Bloody red shrimp are translucent ivory-yellow with red spots. They have dark brown eyes on opposite sides of the head. Similar to our native opossum shrimp, bloody red shrimp are smaller and more red in color; measuring less than 1/2".



Although the potential impact on the Great Lakes is currently unknown, evidence from its native range in Europe show a potential threat to native fish populations due to its diet of algae and zooplankton, which is typically food for young fish.

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Canada Thistle

(Cirsium arvense)



Canada thistle is a perennial plant growing up to 5 ft. tall with numerous small purple flowers clustering at the top of stems. The alternating leaves are crinkled and spiny, with a pale green color on both sides, sometimes lighter underneath.



Canada thistle roots are very robust. They grow both vertically and horizontally giving it the potential to spread 6-10 ft. in just one growing season! Canada thistle also displaces native plants, leading to loss of plant and animal diversity by creating an unsuitable habitat for both.

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Common Reed

(Phragmites australis var. australis)



Common reed is a warm season perennial grass that can reach up to 15 ft. tall! The leaves are blue-green to yellow-green, 1/2-2" wide and 6-18" long. The seed head is purple to gold in color and can be seen from late July-August.



Growing in marshes, wetlands, roadsides and ditches, this plant is known to rapidly form dense stands, crowd out native plants and lower the species diversity needed for a thriving ecosystem. The root structure is especially robust and can grow over 40 ft. horizontally!

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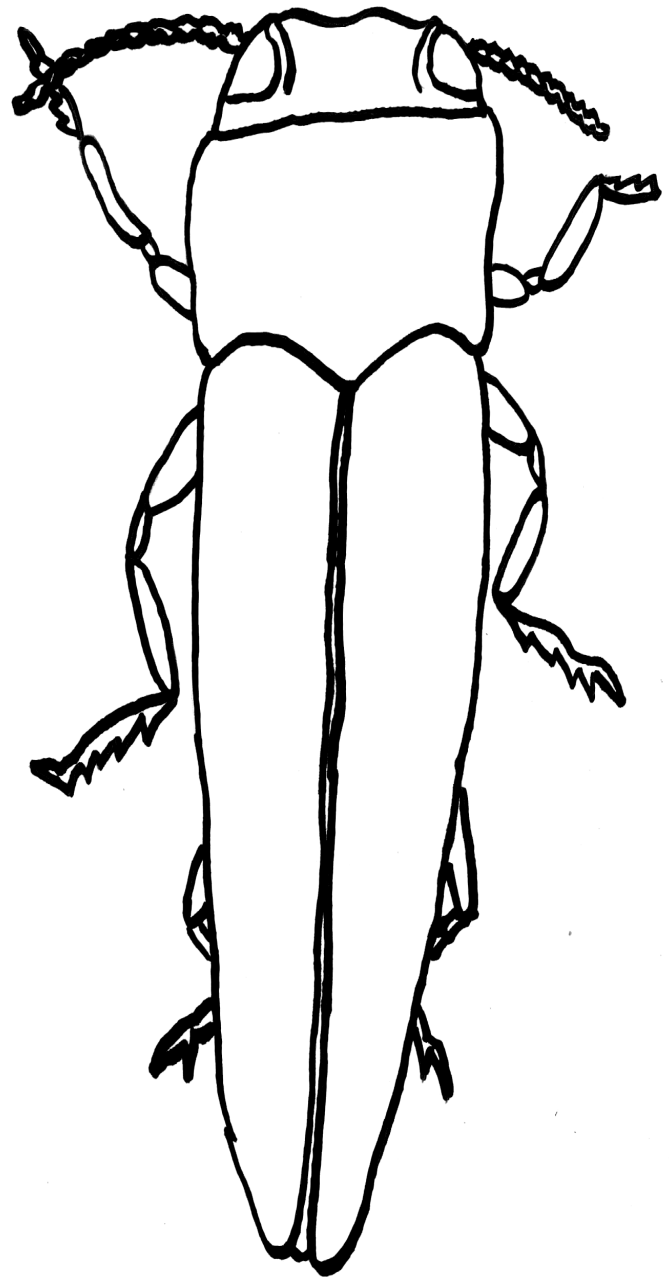
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Emerald Ash Borer

(EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*)



Emerald ash borer is a wood-boring beetle, with brilliant metallic green wing covers and a copper colored abdomen, that feed on ash trees. The adults feed on leaves of our ash, while the immature eat away at the inner bark layer, leading to tree death.



Over 50 million ash trees have been destroyed by EAB since it arrived in North America from China. Evidence of its presence can be seen on the bark with a distinct **D** shaped exit hole, where adults emerge. To help prevent further spread of these and other forest pests, Don't Move Firewood - Burn it Where You Buy It!

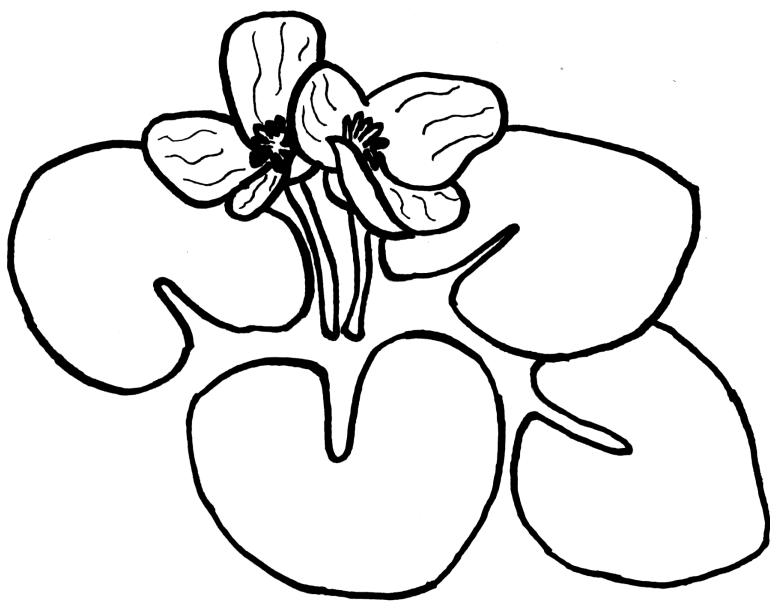
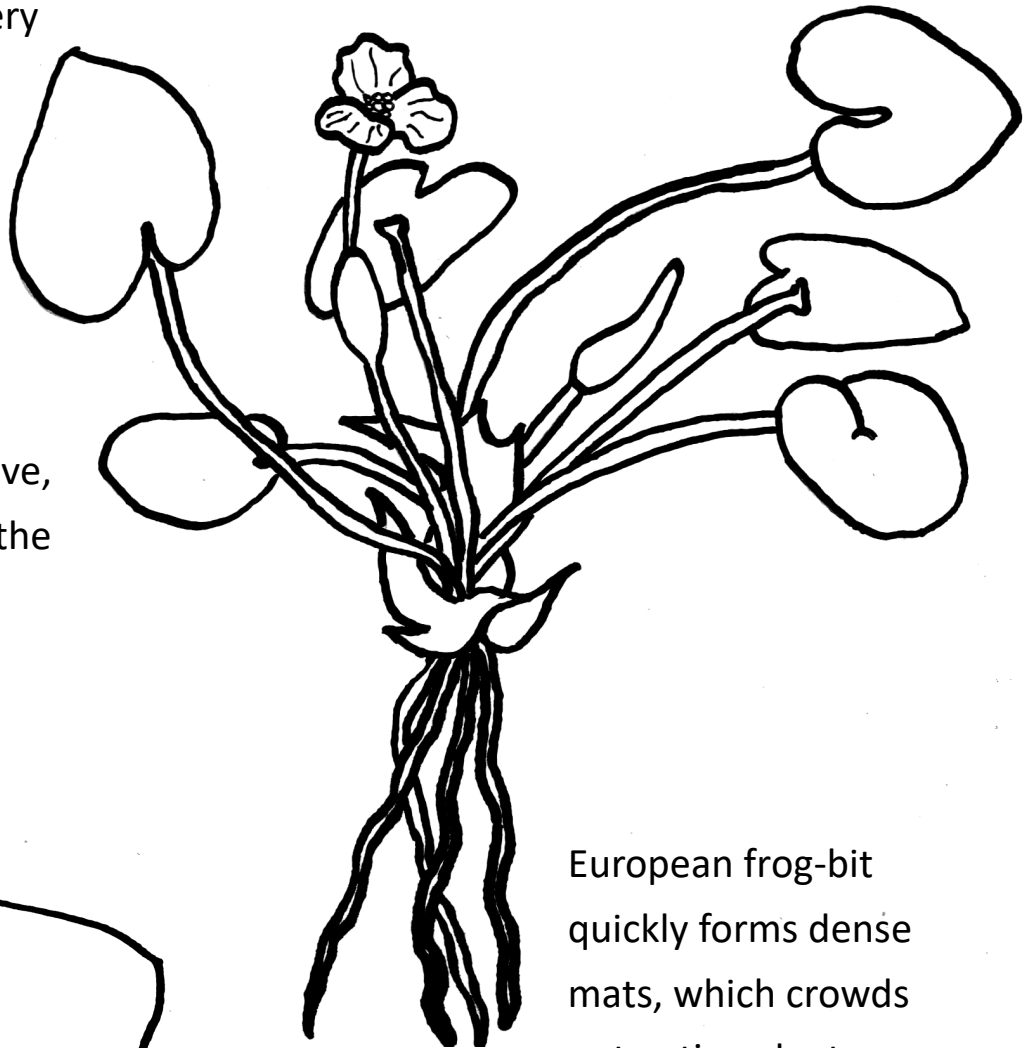
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European Frog-bit

(Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)



European frog-bit is a free-floating, short-lived perennial. Leaves are leathery and round with undersides that may be dark purple. Flowers are white with yellow centers, and they bloom in the summer. The leaf stem of european frog-bit lacks a midline groove, which distinguishes it from the american frog-bit.



European frog-bit quickly forms dense mats, which crowds out native plants, limits light and can inhibit recreational use.

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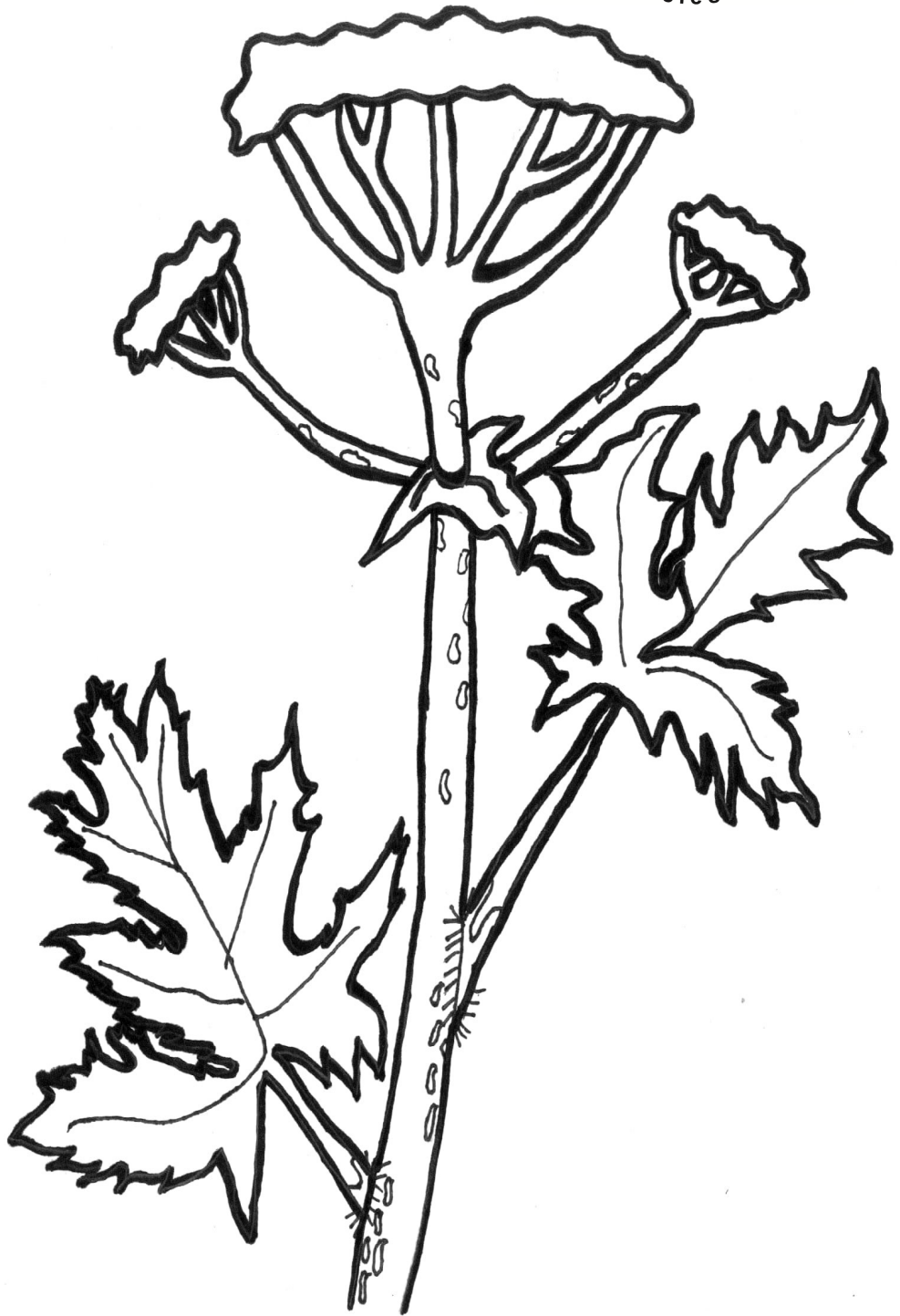
Giant Hogweed

(Heracleum mantegazzianum)



Giant hogweed is a very large, short-lived perennial that flowers once before it dies. Leaves can grow up to 4 ft. wide and the whole plant can reach a height of 15 ft., although most are much shorter. Stems are hairy and have purple splotches on them.

Giant hogweed stems contain a sap. If this sap gets on your skin and your skin is exposed to sunlight, it can cause mild to severe burns as well as injury to eyes. If you see this plant, steer clear and call the DEC Giant Hogweed Hotline: 1-845-256-3111



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Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)



Hemlock woolly adelgid is a tiny insect, about 1/16 of an inch in size. It can be seen on the underside of hemlock branches as it develops a white, wool-like covering for protecting itself and its eggs. Each woolly sac contains 100-300 eggs.



Hemlock woolly adelgid threaten our native eastern hemlock trees by feeding on young branches which store vital nutrients needed for growth and overall health of the tree. The adult generation of hemlock woolly adelgid consists only of females, which reproduce asexually from late winter through spring.

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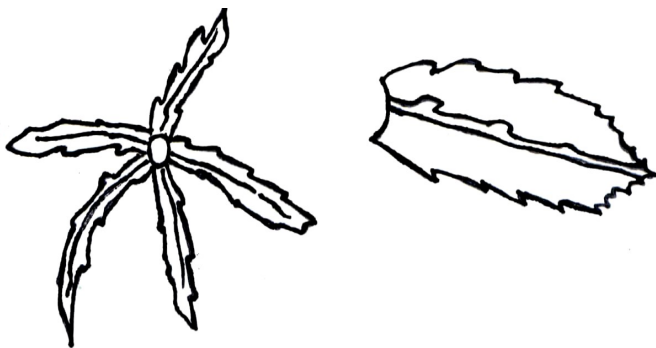
Hydrilla

(Hydrilla verticillata)



Hydrilla is a perennial aquatic plant with visibly toothed leaf edges growing in whorls of 3-8 around the stem, and it can grow as long as 25 ft.! The plant is submerged underwater and needs minimal nutrients and sunlight to survive.

Hydrilla can spread very quickly by seeds, tubers, overwintering buds and even plant fragments! It forms large dense mats along waterways, blocking the flow of water, decreasing native plant diversity and limiting recreational activities.

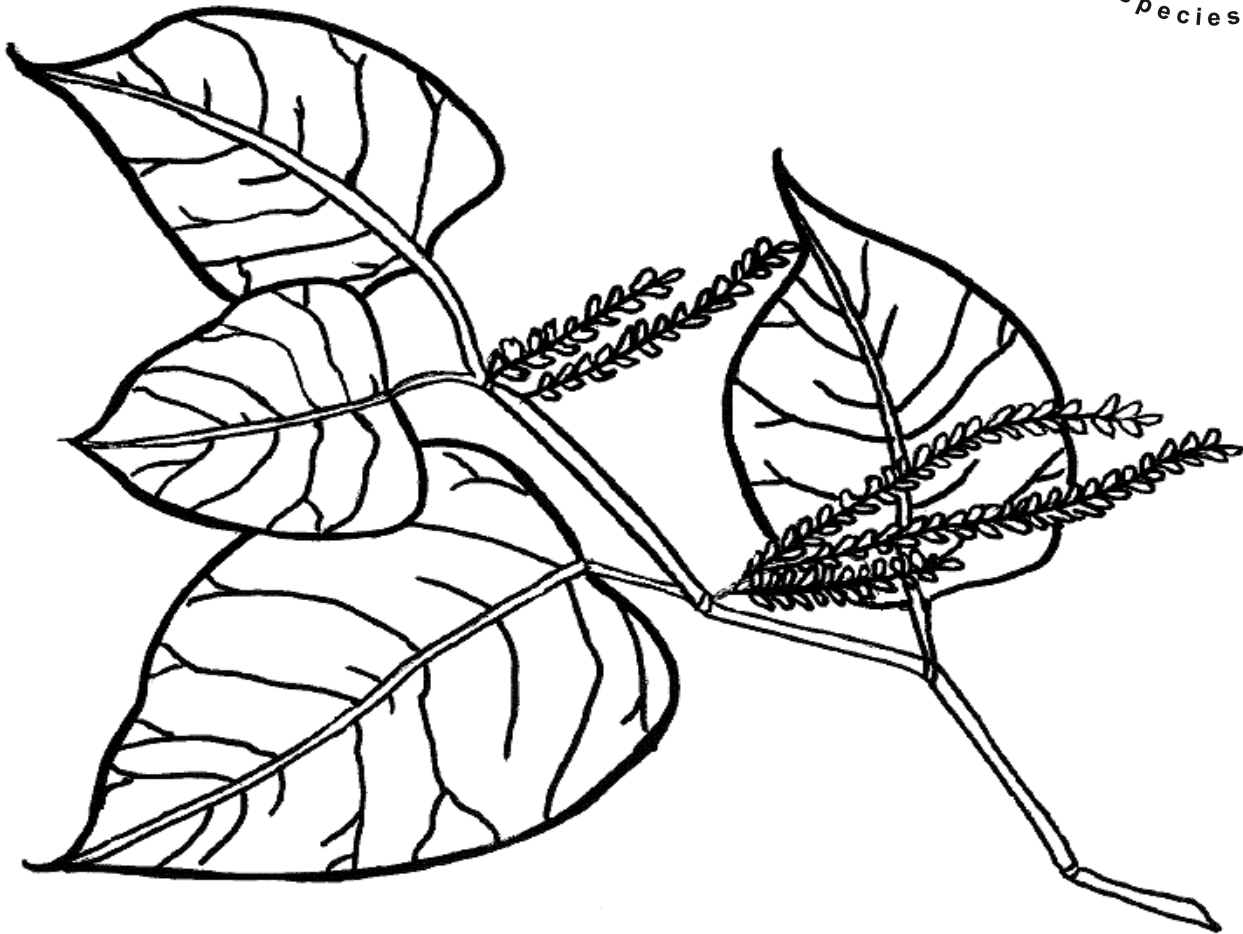


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Knotweeds

(*Reynoutria* spp.)



Knotweeds are fast growing, perennial, herbaceous shrubs with jointed, hollow stems similar to bamboo. Leaves are alternate with a leathery feel. Cascades of white flowers bloom in late-August and the reddish colored stems can be seen in the winter. WNY has three species of knotweeds: giant, japanese, and bohemian.

Growing up to 15 ft. tall, knotweeds emerge in early spring and can easily outcompete native plants. Although tolerant of disturbance and most habitats, knotweeds prefer stream banks which helps seed and root disperse along waterways.

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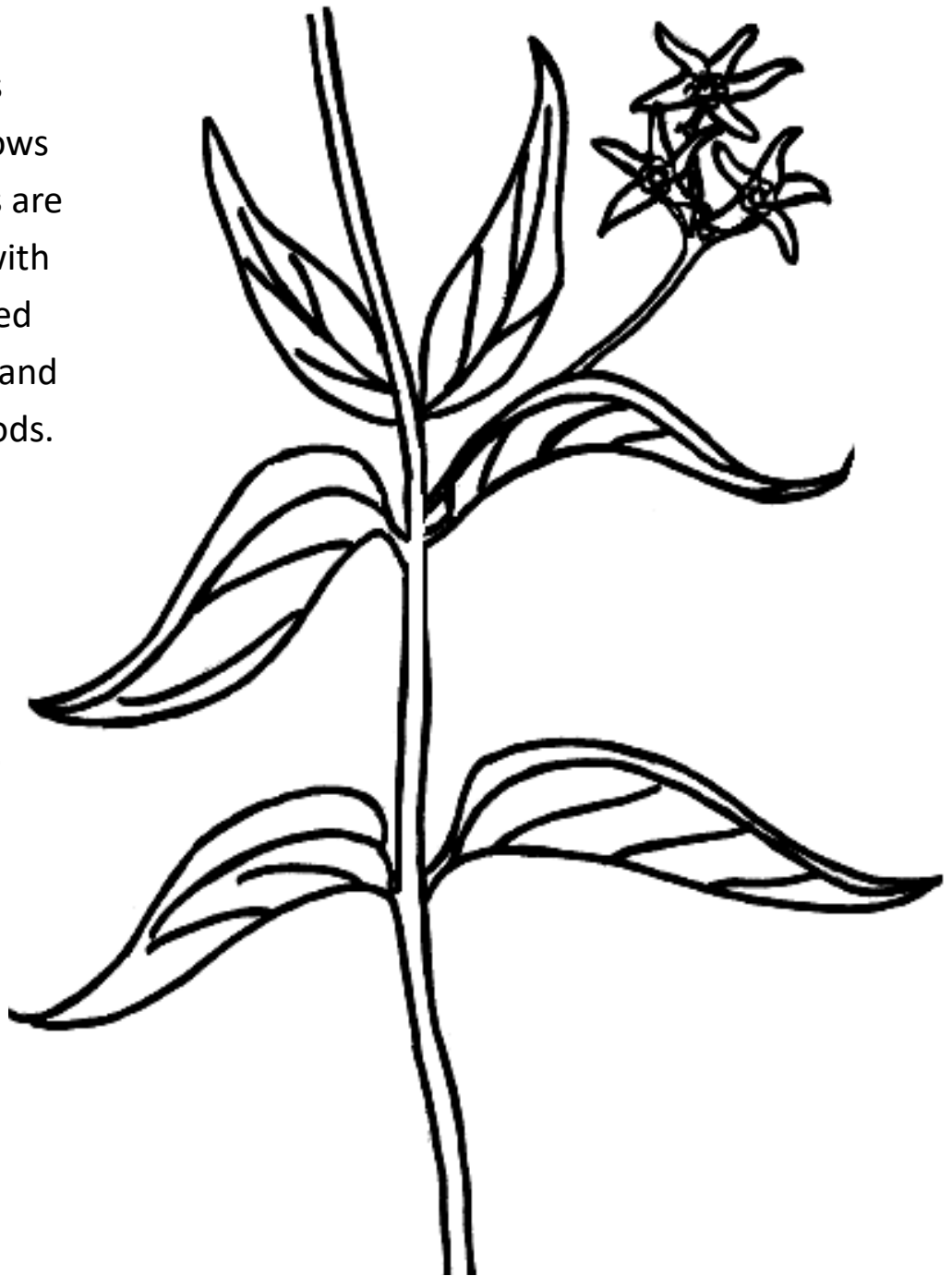
Pale Swallow-wort

(Cynanchum rossicum)



Pale swallow-wort is a perennial, herbaceous vine-like plant that grows up to 6 ft. tall. Flowers are light pink to maroon with 5 triangular petals. Seed pods are bright green and resemble milkweed pods.

Pale swallow-wort threatens many of our natural areas and is particularly harmful to monarch butterflies. Monarchs confuse pale swallow-wort for milkweed, laying their eggs on these plants. But unfortunately, they are unable to survive.



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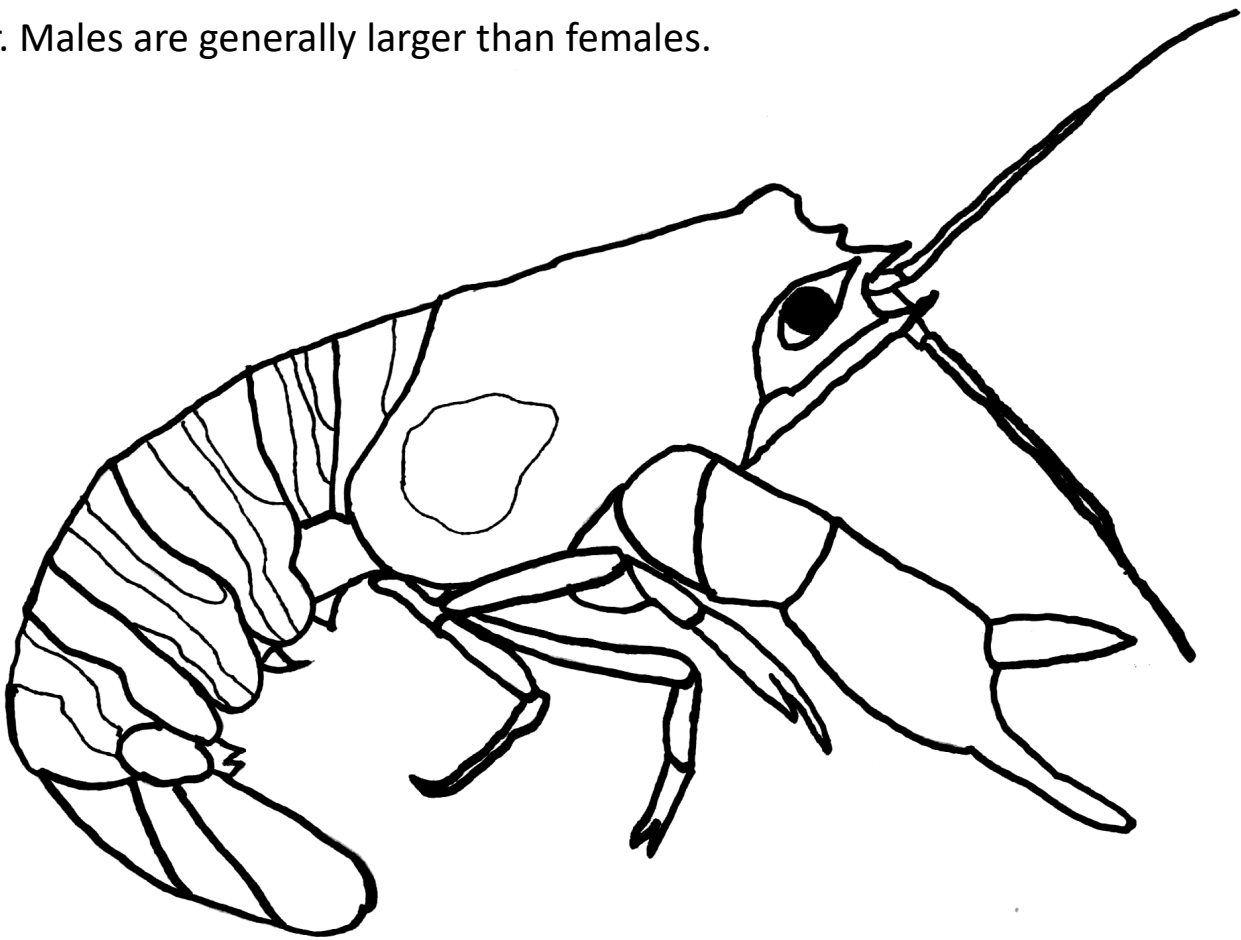
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Rusty Crayfish

(Orconectes rusticus)



Rusty crayfish is a freshwater crustacean that can grow over 3" long. Recognized by two "rusty", or reddish spots, on both sides of the upper shell (carapace), its body ranges from greenish grey to reddish brown in color. Males are generally larger than females.



Native to the Ohio River, they cause ecological harm as they spread to other waterways, usually as angler bait. They reduce populations of native plants, fish and invertebrates due to their aggressive behavior and lack of predators.

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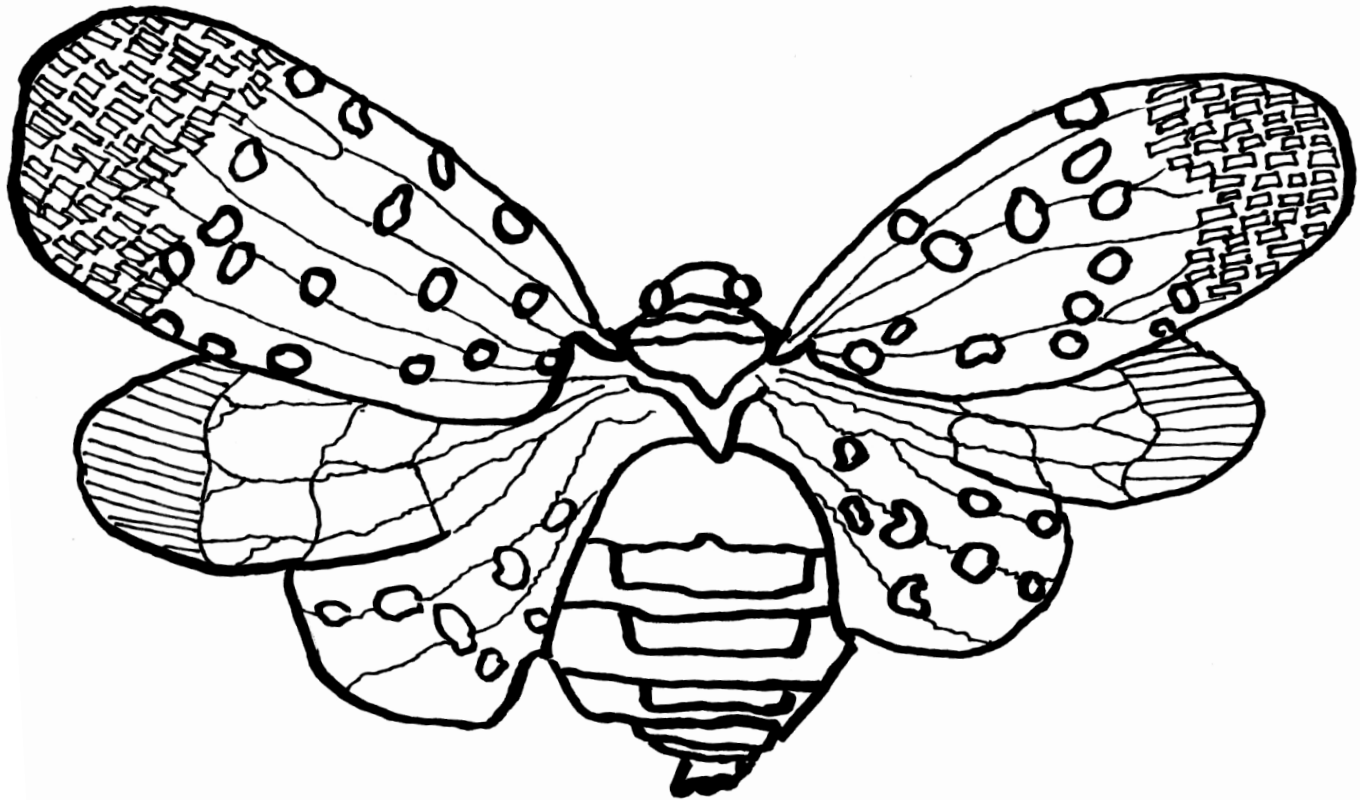
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Spotted Lanternfly

(Lycorma delicatula)



Adult spotted lanternflies have large, visually striking wings, and are approximately 1" long and 1/2" wide at rest. Originally from Asia, it has established in Pennsylvania where it is under quarantine with hopes of limiting its spread. Egg masses can be laid upon almost any smooth surface, including vehicles and stone slabs, so keep a lookout and don't transport this pest.



Both nymphs and adults of spotted lanternfly cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and leaves. This weakens the plant, and contributes to plant death. Another invasive species, tree-of-heaven, serves as the primary food source for adults.

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Water Hyacinth

(Eichhornia crassipes)



Water hyacinth is a free-floating aquatic plant with thick, glossy round leaves, inflated stems and very showy lavender colored flowers. It can grow up to 3 ft. tall and can quickly form very large, dense mats.

Due to water hyacinths' rapid spread, it can decrease the oxygen levels and limit light from reaching the water. This reduces growth of native plants and creates unsuitable habitat for wildlife, both in and out of the water.



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