



Brazilian Elodea

Egeria densa

History

* Has been sold around the world as a popular plant for freshwater aquariums; sometimes discarded into waterbodies and becomes established

Characteristics

- * Submersed, rooted, perennial plant
- * Stems reach 6 ft (2 m) in length, branch profusely at the water surface, and form thick mats
- * Stems have whorls of 4-6 small leaves, which vary from 0.5-1.5 in (1.25-3.8 cm) in length
- * Inconspicuous flowers with 3 white petals and 3 green sepals, at or above the water surface
- * Often confused with hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), but lacks conspicuously toothed leaf margins

Habitat

- * Lakes, rivers, streams in depths to 20 ft (6.1 m)

Known Distribution

- * Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island
- * Native to South America

Impacts

- * Forms dense stands that crowd out native aquatic plants and degrade wildlife habitat
- * Can impede fishing, swimming and boating
- * Restricts water movement, causing sedimentation and affecting water quality



Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*)

Credit: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc

