WATERWHEEL

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK 2017



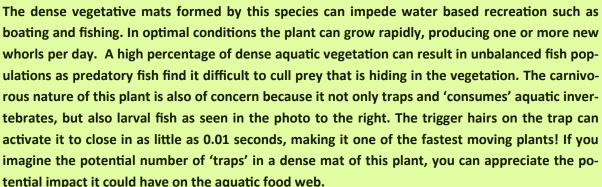




Waterwheel is a rootless, submersed aquatic plant that is carnivorous. Typically the stems are less than 20cm in length with 6-8 whorls of 7-11cm long leaves. The leaves have flattened petioles with clam-like 'traps' at the terminus. The traps have bristles which may serve to funnel prey towards the trap. Under ideal conditions lateral branches are produced at several locations along the stem. Flowering in temperature regions can be rare, but when it occurs it only lasts for a few hours. Small solitary white flowers occur above the water on short peduncles that arise from the leaf whorl axes. From a distance waterwheel resembles another invasive aquatic plant hydrilla, Hydrilla verticillata, which is common in Delaware. There is a potential for waterwheel to be overlooked in areas where hydrilla occurs, however, once the plant is in-hand it is fairly easy to identify.

Waterwheel is native to Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Japan and Korea. It is the only extant species in the genus Aldrovanda and is listed as endangered or threatened in some parts of the world. In the mid-Atlantic region this species is consid-





Waterwheel can be difficult to eradicate once it becomes established, and like hydrilla, can survive cold winters via bud like turions (shown at the right). The best defense is prevention such as implementing best management practices when leaving a water body—remove visible mud and plants from your boat or equipment before transporting; clean and dry anything that comes into contact with the water—go to www.protectyourwaters.net for more information. If you encounter this plant in Delaware, please report it to the Division of Fish and Wildlife at Edna.Stetzar@state.de.us or at (302) 735-8654.





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