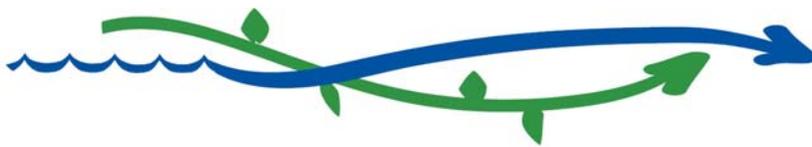




Environmental Dashboard



Trends in New Hampshire's Environment Lakes/Ponds and Rivers/Streams: Exotic Aquatic Plant Infestations

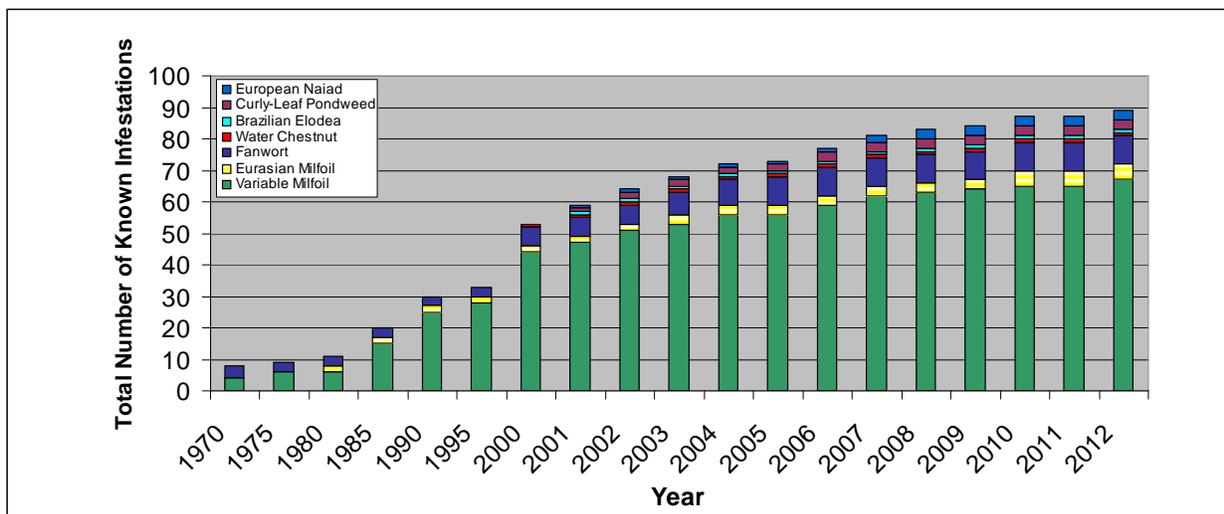
Exotic Aquatic Plant Infestations

Exotic aquatic species are plants or animals that are not native to New Hampshire's waterbodies. Infestations of exotic aquatic plants have detrimental effects on the ecological, recreational, aesthetic and economic values of the state's precious surface waters, leading to water quality impairments and decreasing shorefront property values by as much as 10 to 20%.

Current Condition

There are currently 89 known exotic aquatic plant infestations in 69 lakes/ponds and 11 rivers. The first discovery of an exotic aquatic plant occurred in 1965 in Lake Winnepesaukee.

**Number & Types of Infestations Reported in N.H.
1965 – 2012**



SOURCE: DES Exotic Species Program

Explanation of Indicator and Trend

While the infestations in New Hampshire affect only about 7% of all lakes and ponds (67 out of about 950 that are greater than 10 acres), and just over 1% of all river miles (about two hundred out of an estimated 16,960 river and stream miles), many of these infestations are in prized or high-use waterbodies like Lake Winnepesaukee. While most affected waterbodies contain only one invasive aquatic species, seven waterbodies are infested with two to six different species.

Exotic plants can grow an inch a day and take over habitat quickly. They spread from one waterbody to another and even state to state by boating activities, as plant fragments attached to boat motors and trailers can be easily transported. If not properly removed from motors and equipment, these exotic plant fragments can lead to new infestations.

Once established, exotic aquatic plant infestations are very difficult and very costly to eradicate.

How Does DES Address This?

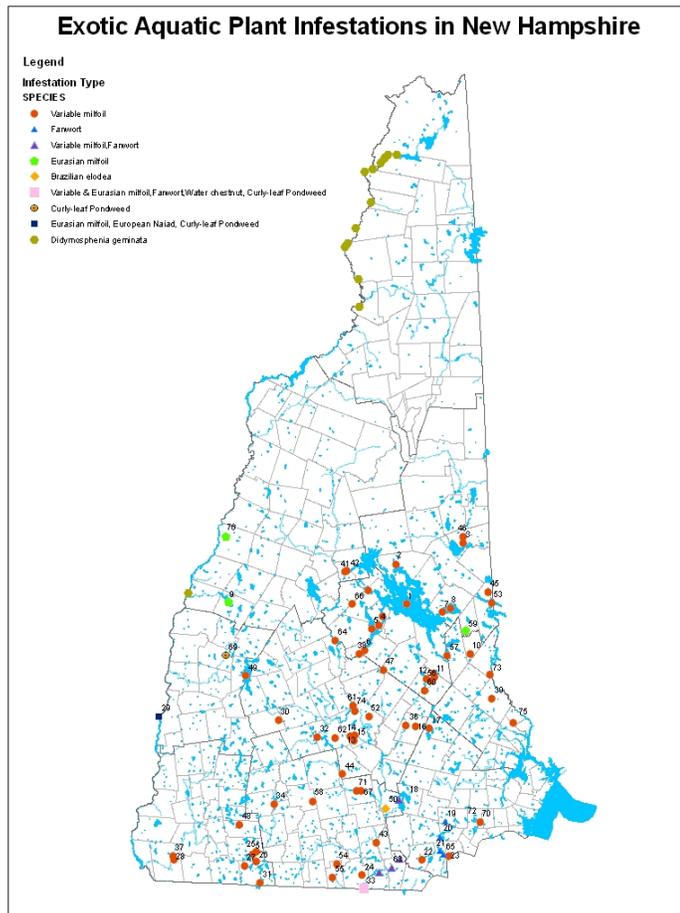
The DES Exotic Species Program coordinates activities associated with the control and management of exotic aquatic plants, as well as facilitating educational and volunteer plant monitoring programs. The program has five focus areas: 1) prevention of new infestations; 2) monitoring for early detection of new infestations to facilitate rapid control activities; 3) control of new and established infestations; 4) research to identify new control methods with the goal of reducing or eliminating infested areas; and 5) fostering regional cooperation to reach these goals.

or More Information, Including What You Can Do to Help

DES Exotic Species Program [link to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/exoticspecies/index.htm>]

What Boaters Can Do to Prevent the Spread of Exotics [Attention Boaters Pamphlet](#) 

Fact sheets and publications to help identify and control exotic aquatic plants [link to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/exoticspecies/categories/publications.htm>]



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