

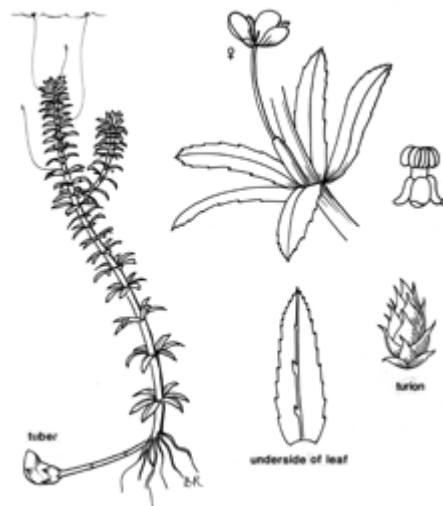
# Hydrilla: Weed Alert Activity



**Objective:** Students will learn key characteristics, identification techniques, and environmental impacts of the invasive plant species *Hydrilla verticillata*.

**Materials:**

- Hydrilla Weed Alert Handout  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/2ndlevpgs/pdfs/hydrilla.pdf>
- Drawing pencils, colored pencils or watercolors
- Paper
- Poster Board or mat board
- Photo images of hydrilla *Hydrilla verticillata*  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/hyvepic.html>
- Line drawing of hydrilla:  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/hydver11.jpg>



**Activity:**

1. Divide class into groups, 3-5 students per group.
2. Hand out copies of the *Weed Alert: Hydrilla* to various groups.
3. After reading and discussing the handout, each group will design a public service announcement using one of the following (a flyer, a poster, a sticker, a doorknob hanger or a radio spot) that addresses the impacts of water hyacinth on Florida's water bodies.

**Extensions:**

1. Have students design their PSA in a second language.
2. Develop a contest in conjunction with your local water district where the winning design could be inserted in a utility bill (electric, phone, or water bill) or water district mailing.  
[http://dep.state.fl.us/secretary/watman/wmd\\_map.htm](http://dep.state.fl.us/secretary/watman/wmd_map.htm)
3. Research the dangers people have encountered while swimming in a lake that is infested with hydrilla; create a sign that could be posted at the lake's boat ramp.

**Additional resources:**

- <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/guide>
- <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/seagrant/hydver2.html>
- <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/hydcirc.html>
- <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/hydver2.pdf>
- [http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/HydrillaMgmt\\_Final\\_June05a.pdf](http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/HydrillaMgmt_Final_June05a.pdf)
- <http://sid.fcla.edu/mrsid/bin/show.pl?client=nontypes&image=126156a1.sid>
- [http://www.apms.org/activity\\_book.pdf](http://www.apms.org/activity_book.pdf)
- <http://www.iisgcp.org/products/iisg0122.pdf>

