

# Water-Hyacinth: Weed Alert Activity



**Objective:** Students will learn key characteristics, identification techniques, and environmental impacts of water hyacinth.

**Materials:**

Weed Alert Handout:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/2ndlevpgs/pdfs/hyacinth.pdf>

Drawing pencils, colored pencils or watercolors

Paper

Poster Board or mat board

Photo images of water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*:

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/eiccra.html>

Line drawing of water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/eichhsm.jpg>



**Activity:**

1. Divide class into groups of 3-5 students per group.
2. Hand out copies of the *Weed Alert: Water hyacinth* 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. Students could 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 and create a poster on how water hyacinth populations decrease biodiversity in Florida.  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/guide/intrguid.html>

**Additional Resources:**

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/seagrant/eiccra2.html>

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/eiccra.pdf>

<http://sid.fcla.edu/mrsid/bin/show.pl?client=nontypes&image=206863a1.sid>

[http://www.apms.org/activity\\_book.pdf](http://www.apms.org/activity_book.pdf)

<http://www.iisgcp.org/products/iisg0122.pdf>

