

# Florida's Aquatic Plant Story

## DVD Questions – Middle School

### Answer Key



An introduction to the benefits of native plants & problems caused by invasive weeds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** As you watch the DVD about Florida's aquatic plants, answer the following questions. Discuss each topic after watching the program.

**1. What problems can develop when a lake is covered by water hyacinth?**

- a. plants and animals start to die off
- b. oxygen levels drop
- c. increased sediments can make the lake more shallow over time

**2. a. How long does it take for water hyacinth to double in size? About 13 days**

**b. Approximately how many days would it take water hyacinth to cover an 8-acre lake if you start with one acre of this invasive plant?**  
Approximately 39 days

**c. Why does this particular plant grow so fast?**  
It has no natural predators in Florida.

**3. List four benefits derived from native aquatic plants:**

- a. Native plants are established parts of a food chain.
- b. Native plants help to stabilize the shoreline of a water body.
- c. Native plants provide habitat for other plants and animals.
- d. Native plants help to take up the nutrients in the water.

**4. Describe two ways in which Florida lakes are different from lakes in other states.**

- a. Florida lakes have a large amount of naturally occurring phosphorus.
- b. Florida water bodies support a great diversity of plant and animal life.

**5. What does the term maintenance control mean as used in the program?**

Maintenance control means to keep aquatic weeds at a minimum so they don't become a larger, more expensive "crisis" problem.



# Florida's Aquatic Plant Story

## DVD Questions – Middle School

### Answer Key



An introduction to the benefits of native plants & problems caused by invasive weeds.

---

**6. List three ways aquatic plants are controlled in Florida.**

- a. Chemical controls such as herbicides**
- b. Physical plant removal**
- c. Biological control**

**7. What aquatic plant is the #1 weed problem in the state of Florida? hydrilla**

**Why?** Hydrilla is a top weed problem because of its reproduction process and rate; it has no natural predators; and it can grow in low light levels.

**8. How is the aquatic plant hydrilla being controlled in Florida waters?**

Chinese grass carp have been imported and are being used as a biological control and herbicides are also being used.

**9. List four things citizens can do to help control aquatic weeds in Florida's lakes and rivers?**

- a. We can educate ourselves about the problems and solutions.**
- b. We should be aware of and join community action groups (LAKEWATCH, etc.).**
- c. When leaving a water body, we should clean the aquatic plants off vehicles, boats, equipment before leaving, so that the plants are not transported to a different water body.**
- d. Never dump aquarium plants and/or animals into a Florida water body.**

**10. Why is it important for citizens in your community to understand Florida's aquatic ecosystems?**

