

# Hydrilla: Help Stop the Spread!



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For: Kissimmee Rotary  
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# Situation

## Hydrilla = Invasive Aquatic Weed



This hydrilla is  
really choking  
me out!!





# Topics

- Background/Problem
- Management
- Demonstration Project
- How You Can Help ...

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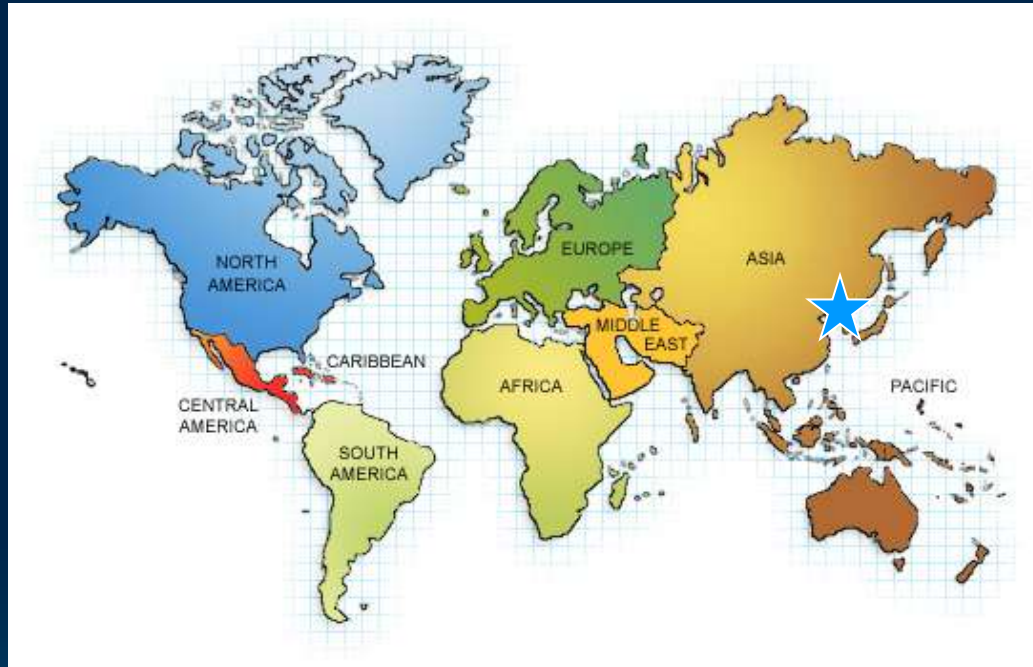
# Meet Hydrilla



- Exotic invasive
- Submersed plant
- Grows in shallow, deep
- Spreads easily- fragments
- Dense infestations
- Grows >1 inch per day



# How did it get here?



- SE Asia
- Aquarium industry

# How did it get here?



- SE Asia
- Aquarium industry

# How does it spread?



# What's the Problem?

- Infestations
- Water quality



Lake Toho  
Hydrilla Infestation

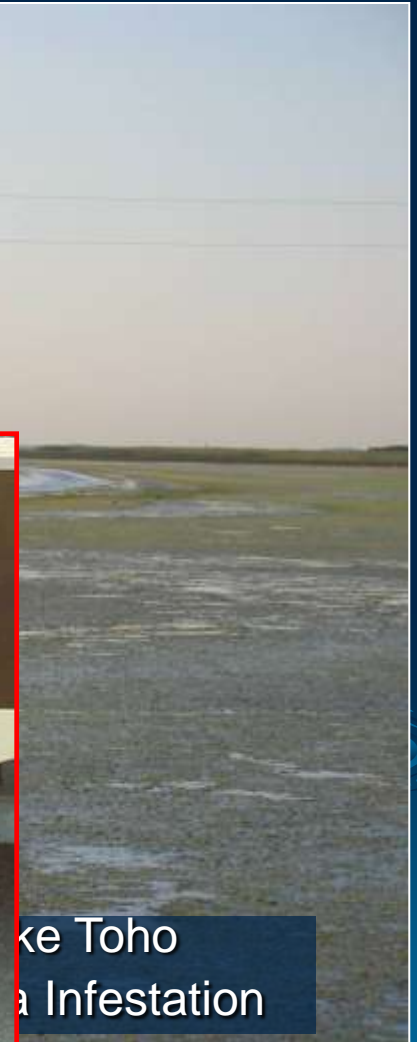
Photo by: Tina Bond

# What's the Problem?

- Infestations
- Water quality
- Navigation
  - Recreation
  - Tournaments
- Flooding
- Resistance to Sonar



Photo courtesy of UF CAIP



Ke Toho  
Infestation

Photo by: Tina Bond

# What's the Problem?

## ➤ Economic study

- \$50 million at risk in Osceola County!
- Bell, Frederick. 2006. Economic Sectors at Risk from Invasive Aquatic Weeds for the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in Osceola County. Florida State University.

## ➤ More state money spent in Osceola County on hydrilla control than anywhere else

- Need more cost effective way to control!



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# Management

## ➤ Mechanical

## ➤ Biological control

- using natural enemies to reduce damage caused by pests

## ➤ Chemical

- Primary, selective
- Registered aquatic herbicides
- Need alternatives



# Management Challenges

- Public perception
- User groups
- Snail Kite
  - Work around nesting season
  - Leave areas untreated



Photo by: Brian Reichert

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# Demonstration Project

- Osceola County awarded \$2.881 million by the EPA for this project
- Goal: To find new and alternative methods of control for hydrilla and hygrophila and to share the findings with the industry and public.

# Project Findings

- 2 new aquatic herbicides approved
- Evaluating several new herbicides
- Most effective timing
- Evaluating 7 biocontrol agents
  - Host specific



Photo courtesy of Dr. J. Cuda

Caterpillar eating hygrophila leaf

# Demonstration and Outreach

Demonstrating results to local applicators, the public, and federal, state, and local government partners.



- Website
- Teacher Workshop
- Exhibits
- Presentations
- Kiosks
- Field Days



<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

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# How You Can Help

- Learn to recognize
- Remove from your boat
- ~~Transport, Release~~
- Avoid chopping
- Spread the word!
- Learn more...

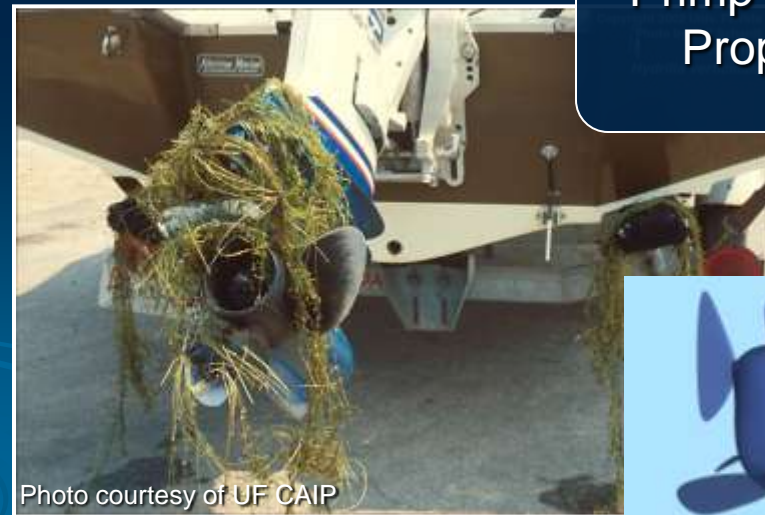


Photo courtesy of UF CAIP

Primp your Prop!!



Questions?



**Please Visit Our Website:**  
**<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>**