**Hydrilla verticillata**

**Appearance:** Submersed, usually rooted, aquatic perennial herb with slender ascending stems to 9 m (30 ft) long; heavily branched.

**Leaves:** Whorled, 3–8 per whorl; 2–4 mm (0.1–0.2 in) wide and 6–20 mm (0.2–0.8 in) long, bearing coarse (visible) teeth along the margins and usually 1–4 small conical bumps along underside of midrib, which is often red.

**Flowers:** Male flowers detached and free floating at maturity, with 3 sepals and 3 petals, white to reddish brown; about 2 mm (0.7 in) long; releasing floating pollen from stamens when flower pops open at water surface.

**Fruit:** N/A

**Ecological threat:** Competitively displaces native submersed plant communities. In dense stands, it alters fisheries populations, causes shifts in zooplankton communities, and affects water chemistry. FLEPPC Category I

**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW, SE

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**Field Notations**

HYDRVERT/HYVE3

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