

Sharp barbs on Water Chestnut



are painful hazards to swimmers and bare feet.

Source: Roberta Hill, VLMP © 2007

One Water Chestnut rosette can produce 15 nuts per season that sink to the bottom and remain viable for up to 12 years.

The seeds germinate in the spring and each new plant can divide into 10-15 rosettes over the summer.

Dense mats of stems and floating rosettes can deplete oxygen levels, choke out native species and hinder navigation. Water chestnut is spread by seed, by rosettes that break apart and float to new locations, by fragments that attach to boats and trailers, personal watercrafts, kayaks and canoes. Even birds transport Water Chestnut.

Lake Hopatcong Commission

P.O. Box 8515

Landing, NJ 07850

Keep this brochure handy on your vessel to easily identify Water Chestnut.

WATER CHESTNUT

A GUIDE TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT

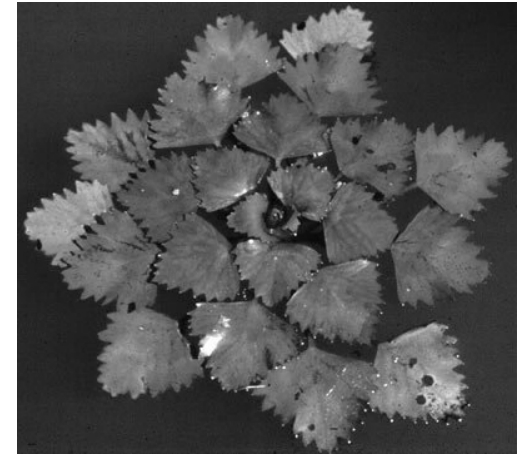


Photo: Water Chestnut rosette, which can multiply to 10-15 rosettes over one summer.



Lake Hopatcong Commission
P.O. Box 8515
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The LHC acknowledges the contribution and assistance provided by the Lake Hopatcong Alliance (lakehopatcongalliance.com) for this educational brochure.

Why is it so important to keep Water Chestnut out of Lake Hopatcong?

You may be thinking Lake Hopatcong already has so many weeds, why should everyone be concerned about keeping Water Chestnut out of Lake Hopatcong? The reason is simple.

Water Chestnut has an explosive growth rate in areas that have suitable habitat for the plant.

Approximately one third of Lake Hopatcong's 2,600 acres are suitable habitat for Water Chestnut. Imagine not being able to boat, fish or enjoy other recreational activities in your favorite coves on the Lake.

One acre of Water Chestnut can produce enough seeds to cover 100 acres the following year.

Everyone can do their part to keep this aggressive invasive species out of Lake Hopatcong by learning how to identify and report Water Chestnut.

How to Report Water Chestnut Sightings on Lake Hopatcong

If you believe you have found Water Chestnut on Lake Hopatcong, there are three easy steps to follow:

1. Be able to identify the exact location on the lake.
2. Take close-up pictures of the plant and its location, if possible.
3. Immediately contact the LHC:

**LAKE HOPATCONG
COMMISSION
973-601-1070
dmhlhc@verizon.net**

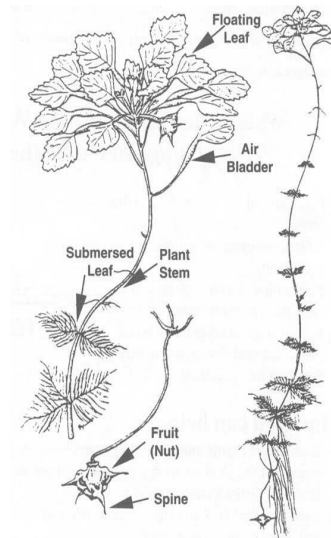
To prevent the spread of Water Chestnut, report any sightings immediately. Only trained individuals should remove water chestnut to prevent it from spreading rapidly throughout the 800+ suitable acres on Lake Hopatcong.

To report Water Chestnut sightings in other New Jersey water bodies, complete the Water Chestnut Reporting Form available at:

http://morris.njaes.rutgers.edu/ag/Aquatic_invasive%20species.html

What does Water Chestnut look like?

Water chestnut is an annual, rooted aquatic plant with a leafy rosette that floats on the surface. Stems can extend up to 16 feet, supporting two types of leaves. Floating surface leaves are triangular, 1–2 inches long, waxy and have toothed edges; their stalks have a bladder-like swelling that provides buoyancy. Submersed leaves are feathery, whorled along the stem and up to 6 inches long. Flowers are small, white, have 4 petals and bloom from mid July to fall frost. The fruit is an inch-wide woody nut armed with 4 stout barbs.



Aquatic Plants of New England Series: *Trapa natans* L. Crow and Hellquist 1983. Illustration by Pam Brunns.