

Invasive Water Chestnut



Spot



Pull



Prevent

Take Isolated Plants Out!

To conserve habitat for wildlife, do not disturb any native plants



**Learn
to
Spot it**

- Learn to recognize its triangular leaves that grow radiating from the center.
- Jagged leaves float on the water forming a rosette or mandala shaped plant.
- This aggressive plant grows large and multiplies fast to form a dense mat.
- Plants can entirely cover several acres of water (see background photo).
- In August, up to 15-20 large, pointy seeds can develop under the leaves.
- The following year, each seed produced can make 10-15 new plants.



**Gently
Pull Up
to Lift
Out**

- Since roots are small, boaters can easily lift water chestnut plants up to remove.
- In early June, new rosettes can fit in the palm of your hand, but as they grow larger over the summer, they can be up to 2 feet wide by the end of August.
- It is easier to pull the smaller plants in June and July, before the seeds form.
- After removing the plant, dispose as trash, or compost as far from the water as possible. As an annual, once pulled, it will not grow back (success!).



**Prevent
Seeds
from
Spreading**

- Pulling plants before the seeds form is most effective to stop seed dispersal.
- The large, pointy seeds are barbed, and if left to mature, can attach to birds, wildlife, boats, waders or other gear and hitchhike over land to new lakes.
- Mature seeds that have dropped may become dormant in the lake bottom, and not germinate the next year, but can remain viable to sprout up to 12 years later!
- Removal is a long-term effort – look EVERY year, as old seeds may germinate.



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Resources

To report water chestnut at a new location, email: DEM.WaterResources@dem.ri.gov

For more info: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/aisfs/tranat-fs.pdf>

Spot It!

Learn to Recognize Invasive Water Chestnut



It's small in June...



1 - 2 feet by August!



Plants start off small (fit in the palm of your hand) but can grow up to 2 feet across by the Fall.



Tiny white flowers bloom (only in the mornings) in early July. Leaves of the rosette float on the water, and one main stem anchors the plant in shallow mud.



Spikey seeds start off green and turn brown



By the end of July, each rosette can produce up to 20 large, pointy, green or brown seeds that grow on the underside of the rosette. Seeds will drop off and sink to the bottom, where they may be viable to sprout up to twelve years later.