



PROTECTING IOWA WATERS

ONSITE MANAGEMENT OF CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

What is Curly-leaf Pondweed

Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus* L.) is an invasive, submersed aquatic plant with thick roots that grows in many Iowa lakes, ponds and streams. When in a system, it aggressively outcompetes native submersed aquatic vegetation. Native to Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, it was first documented in Iowa in 1944.



Lifecycle Information

The lifecycle of curly-leaf pondweed is unique among submersed aquatic plants. Reproductive structures, called turions are brown, shaped like small pine cones, and under a half-inch in size. Turions typically germinate in the fall, when water temperatures drop below 65°F. The plants often go dormant in the winter. They start to grow again when temperatures increase in the spring. Curly-leaf pondweed can grow several inches per day during peak growing season in the spring. This creates problems for more beneficial native aquatic plants as it crowds out space and essential light native plants need to grow. In Iowa, curly-leaf pondweed dies back in mid to late June. The dying plants drift and accumulate on shorelines in the middle of summer.

Shoreline Management Options

Shoreland homeowner options to manage plant accumulation:

1. Leave the plants on the shore to naturally decompose
2. Collect and compost in lawn or garden
 - Allow minimum 24-48 hours to dry then mow lawn normally
 - Composted pondweed releases beneficial nutrients and improves soil structure & water retention
3. Remove and dispose at approved waste sites
 - A transport permit is required to legally haul to disposal sites (**apply for a free transport permit at www.iowadnr.gov/ais , select "AIS Permits" from the top menu**)
 - Disposal locations are dependent on the location of residency (**see map on back**)



Collection & Composting Tips

- Drying is key. Whether you are composting it onsite or transporting for disposal.
- Refrain from piling pondweed. The plant matter is >80% water and allowing adequate dry time makes removal easier and safer.
- Spread plants in thin layer on the shore, dock, or in your lawn to be dried by the sun and wind



For more Curly leaf pondweed information: Jason Euchner, Aquatic Vegetation Management Biologist, DNR Fisheries Bureau, jason.euchner@dnr.iowa.gov, 515-230-4789

Aquatic Plant Transportation Permits

[Shoreland Homeowner General Permit](#)

[Commercial Entities General Permit](#)

Shoreland homeowners and commercial entities (lawn service, beach cleaning or waste hauling contractors) must have a permit to transport curly-leaf pondweed plants to an approved disposal site within an approved travel area.

To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during transport to the disposal site:

- Remove excess water from the aquatic plants and attached material
- Secure the aquatic plants and other material in a covered trailer or closed container to ensure that plants will not fall out
- Thoroughly clean all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from the hauling equipment (e.g. trailer, pickup truck, tarp) before leaving the disposal site.



Disposal Site Map



Clear Lake Residents

City of Clear Lake Yard Waste Site
1419 2nd Ave S
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Ventura Residents

City of Ventura Yard Waste
101 Sena Street
Ventura, IA 50482

Residents outside of Clear Lake and Ventura Yard waste facilities boundaries

(Ventura Heights and along the lake's south shore from Clear Lake State Park west to S14)

Landfill of North Iowa
15942 Killdeer Ave Clear Lake, IA 50428
\$5.00/load for private residents
\$17.50/ton for commercial

For questions related to AIS permits to transport: Kim Bogenschutz, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, kim.bogenschutz@dnr.iowa.gov, 515-290-0540