

UPDATE ON CDFA REGULATORY AQUATIC WEED PROGRAMS

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The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services' Integrated Pest Control Branch has three programs that are involved with weed control. They are the Weed Program, the Hydrilla Program and the Biological Control Program. In addition, there is a statewide coordinator for the many local Weed Management Areas. The Hydrilla Program is primarily responsible for the aquatic weeds.

California's weed rating system is based on distribution within the state. "A" rated weeds are of limited distribution, "C" rated weeds are generally widespread and "B" rated weeds are in between the two in distribution.

"A" rated weeds are prohibited entry into the state and sale within the state, and are subject to eradication.

"B" rated weeds are prohibited from nurseries and sale by nurseries, can be prohibited and eradicated at the county level at the discretion of the county Agricultural Commissioner.

"C" rated weeds can be prohibited from sale and eradicated at the discretion of the county Agricultural Commissioner.

"Q" rated weeds, are temporarily treated as "A" rated weeds, subject to review for a permanent weed rating.

The primary aquatic weed projects are:

Hydrilla
Salvinia
Purple Loosestrife
Alligatorweed
South American Spongeplant

In 2004 there were some aquatic weed rating changes:

Four new "Q" rated weeds were added - *Alternanthera sessilis* - Sessile joyweed
- *Ceratopteris thalictroides* - Watersprite
- *Hygrophila polysperma* - Indian smartweed
- *Lagorsiphon major* - Curly waterweed

New "A" rated weeds - *Limnobium laevigatum* - South American Spongeplant
- *Hydrocharis morsus* - Frogbit
- *Salvinia auriculata* complex - Giant salvinia

New "B" rated weed - *Pistia stratioides* - Water lettuce

New "C" rated weeds - *Bacopa monnieri* - Water hyssop
- *Eichhornia crassipes* - Water hyacinth
- *Myriophyllum spicatum* - Eurasian watermilfoil