



PROTECTING IOWA WATERS

MANAGING CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

What is Curly-leaf Pondweed

Curly-leaf pondweed 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 collected in North America in 1841 and documented in Iowa in 1954.



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 degrees. 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.

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.

Approved Disposal Sites

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, including Ventura Heights from Clear Lake State Park west along the lakes south shore 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 more information: Jason Euchner, Aquatic Vegetation Management Biologist, DNR Fisheries Bureau, jason.euchner@dnr.iowa.gov, 515-230-4789