



Invasive Plant and Agricultural Pest Program

House Resource Committee

Dan Coleman, Invasive Plant & Agricultural Pest Coordinator

Division of Agriculture – Plant Materials Center

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

May 8, 2019



INVASIVE PLANT AND AGRICULTURAL PEST PROGRAM

DOT/PF Right-of-Way

- Canada thistle
- Orange hawkweed

Weed-Free Forage, Straw and Gravel Program

- Increase availability of certified weed-free products

Aquatic Invasive Plants

- Elodea crisis

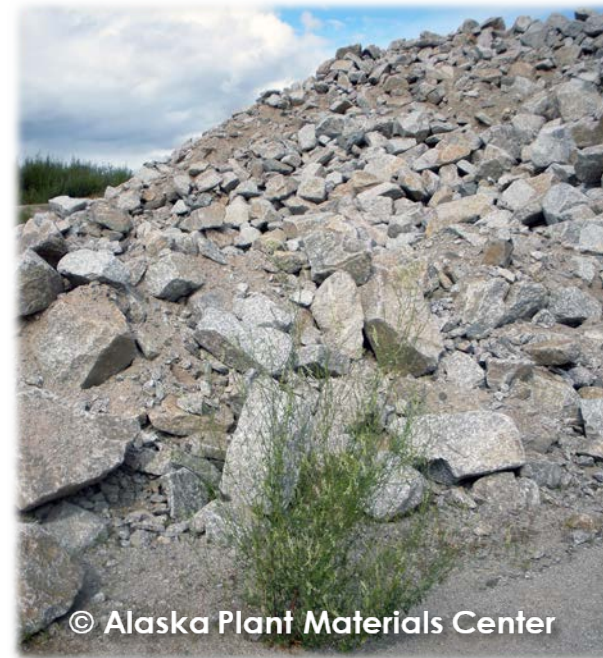
DOT/PF RIGHT-OF-WAY

Control noxious & injurious invasive plants



WEED-FREE FORAGE AND GRAVEL

There is a growing demand for the use of certified weed-free forage, mulch and gravel as a preventative program.



AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS

We still have the chance to eradicate Elodea from Alaska. Let's work together to prevent damage to Alaska's freshwater resources. Our fisheries, recreational opportunities, and economy are worth protecting!

Elodea in Alaska

Until recently, Alaska has been free of invasive submerged aquatic plants that greatly impact freshwater resources in other areas of the world where they are not native.

The discovery of Elodea in Chena Slough in Fairbanks in 2010 drew attention to an established population in Eyak Lake and led to the discovery of Elodea in other waterbodies near population centers. Elodea may have been introduced to Alaska's wild waterways by aquarium dumping. Elodea is not native to Alaska and it has the potential to spread by fragments on float planes, boats, trailers, school and home aquariums, and other equipment.

A coordinated effort is underway between state and federal agencies and other management groups to respond to Elodea and inform people of the risk it poses to Alaska's natural resources. Herbicide applications have successfully eradicated Elodea from some lakes in Alaska.

Identifying Characteristics

- Submerged leaves are densely packed.
- No part of the plant extends above the water's surface.
- Leaves in whorls of 3, or occasionally 4, unlike native species.
- Stems are a lighter green than the leaves and grow in a tangled mass.
- Leaves are 1/4" to 1/2" long and 1/8" wide.



Other waters at risk

Elodea has a long history as an invasive plant. It is native to North and South America and is often used in aquariums. Elodea was introduced to Great Britain over a century ago, and has since spread to Scandinavia and across Russia to Lake Baikal.

Elodea can spread to new locations and waterbodies through tiny plant fragments carried by float planes, boats, trailers, aquariums, and other equipment. This plant spreads easily because broken fragments can root to form new plants, and it can survive harsh winters under ice.

Elodea locations in Alaska



CLEAN:
Remove all visible mud, plants, fish, or animals from equipment.

DRAIN:
Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting to avoid harboring hitchhikers.

DRY:
Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water.

To report Elodea or any other invasive species, contact the Invasive Species hotline: 1-877-INVASIV (1-877-468-2748)

ELODEA CRISIS

Elodea easily
spreads through
fragmentation



© Alaska Plant Materials Center



UAA ISER

ELODEA CRISIS



© Alaska Plant Materials Center

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Preventative actions

- MOU, ADF&G Executive Order

Outreach and education

- Presentations, signage, pamphlets

Collaboration

- Interagency task forces

Active management

- Multiyear projects

QUESTIONS?

On behalf of the
Division of
Agriculture,
Thank You!



© Alaska Plant Materials Center
1 cm