



Canadian waterweed - *Elodea canadensis*

An aquatic, perennial and submerged plant (apart from the tiny white flowers on long threadlike stalks) which grows up to 3m in length. First recorded in the UK in the 1800's it has subsequently spread rapidly and is now found commonly. The waterweed produces dense growth in slow flowing rivers, drainage channels and canals can impede flow and exacerbate flooding. It can replace native aquatic plant species and reduce biodiversity in lakes and ponds and interfere with recreational activities such as angling and boating. It is difficult to distinguish between Canadian waterweed and Nuttall's waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*).

Management Options:

Mechanical Cutting

Cut using the most appropriate equipment for the site, such as weed knives, trailing knives, chains, rakes, etc. The location should be netted to retain propagules.

- Suitability:** Effective if propagules can be prevented from spreading.
- Equipment:** Boats, drysuits, specialist cutting equipment, wheelbarrows, forks, rakes. Vehicle & trailer if not disposing at site. Stop-nets and sweep nets. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.
- Efficiency:** Moderate - depending on the efficiency of the equipment at the site. Submerged objects, such as tree trunks, will compromise efficiency.
- Constraints:** Requires good access and appropriate methods for waste management. Removal may create a niche for more invasive submerged macrophytes, if present.

Manual Pulling

Hand-pull (if water depth allows) and dispose of material by composting away from water habitats.

- Suitability:** Only suitable in shallow areas, or at sites at which the water level can be dropped for management purposes. Suitable for volunteer groups.
- Equipment:** Boats, drysuits, wheelbarrows, forks, rakes. Vehicle & trailer if not disposing at site. Stop-nets and sweep nets. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.
- Efficiency:** Moderate/Poor, and of limited application to most sites.
- Constraints:** Time-consuming, and requires good access. Removal may create a niche for more invasive submerged macrophytes, if present.

Plant Suppression

Cover submerged growth with jute matting, weighted down with stones, as described by methodology developed by Central Fisheries Service, Ireland (now Inland Fisheries Ireland).

- Suitability:** Best in areas with an even substrate free from obstructions.

