



# Aquatic nuisances can cause big problems if not caught early

Water is valuable in Wyoming. If lucky enough to have water on your property, protecting your water resource from plants that have a potential of decreasing its value is important.

Whether a pond, stream, lake, or irrigation ditch, these are some plants to watch for. Many of these aquatic plants provide great habitat for wildlife and help filter water, but in large quantities can cause adverse effects on your property. If left unchecked some species can create monocultures and outcompete other important species wildlife rely on.

Management of aquatic weed species can be discussed with your weed and pest control district or University of Wyoming Extension office. If you see, or even suspect, purple loosestrife or Eurasian watermilfoil on your property or elsewhere, please contact your weed and pest district or extension office. These invasive species need to be managed before allowed to spread. As always, remember to Drain, Clean, Dry ([bit.ly/wyodraincleanngo](http://bit.ly/wyodraincleanngo)) any water vessel and to Play, Clean, Go ([bit.ly/wyoplaycleanngo](http://bit.ly/wyoplaycleanngo)) while recreating.

Who likes nuisances? **Jenna Meeks** and **Jess Butler** don't. Meeks is the assistant supervisor with the Goshen County Weed and Pest Control District. She can be reached at (307) 532-3713 or at [gocoweeds@gmail.com](mailto:gocoweeds@gmail.com). Butler is the assistant supervisor at the Converse County Weed and Pest Control District. He can be reached at (307) 358-2775 [ccwp@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ccwp@qwestoffice.net).

Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)



## Coontail

- Found throughout the United States
- Found in calm lakes, ponds, and streams
- Tends to favor hard water sources (water high in minerals, especially calcium)
- Submersed plant without a root system

Sardo Michael, shutterstock.com



## Filamentous algae (pond scum)

- Many varieties through the United States
- Created by a series of cells joined together
- Starts by attaching to rocks or other debris in ponds
- Will often float to the water's surface forming large mats
- Texture of the algae ranges from coarse to slimy

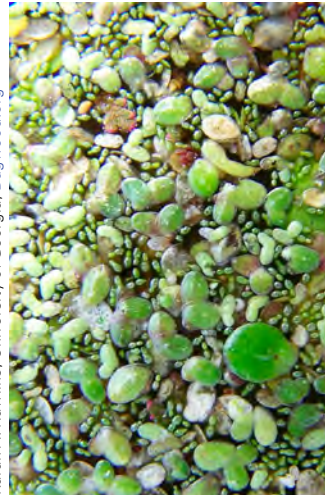
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### Common Cattail

- Often found in ponds, ditches, and irrigation canals
- Offers habitat for waterfowl
- Tends to become a problem in stagnant or slow-moving water
- Has a large, creeping rhizomatous root system

Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



### Duckweed

- Small, floating plant
- Often confused with algae
- Rapid reproduction by means of fragmentation
- Can deplete oxygen levels making the water uninhabitable for fish
- Found in calm or stagnant water

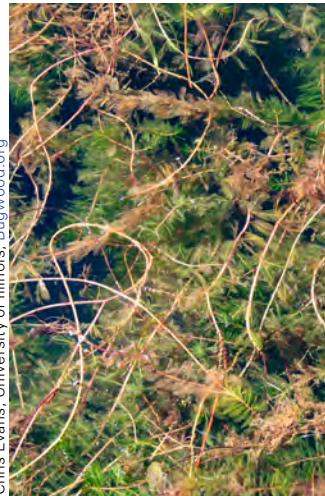
Lexiv, shutterstock.com



### Purple loosestrife

- Perennial species can grow up to 8 feet tall
- Highly invasive in wetlands, ditches, streams, and irrigation canals
- New plants can spread via shoots of established plants root systems or by seeds as it produces up to 300,000 per stalk.
- Will impede or alter water flow
- Designated a noxious species in Wyoming

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



### Eurasian watermilfoil

- Currently not reported in Wyoming but has been reported or established in 45 states
- Highly invasive, non-native plant
- Each fragment can produce its own root system
- Can completely overtake an aquatic plant community in only a few years
- Ideal habitat is calm, shallow waters in streams, ponds, and lakes