

What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

The ecosystem of Greenwood Lake has many native species that are well adapted to the conditions and other species present in the lake. When a non-native or exotic species is introduced, it has no natural controls (animals or other plants to limit its growth). When a species dominates or significantly alters the local ecosystem it is considered an invasive species

How do AIS get into Greenwood Lake?

AIS are introduced to our region in a variety of ways including hitching rides in ship ballast water, accidental release from aquariums, escape from water gardens and intentional introduction.

AIS are further spread unintentionally by boaters when plant fragments are tangled on boats, motors, trailers, fishing gear, and dive gear. Some species, including the Zebra Mussel, have a microscopic larval form that can travel undetected in ballast water, cooling water, live-well water and bait bucket water to new locations.

For More Information, Questions, Comments, or to Report a Sighting Please Contact

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*Friends I am a boater, and like you I love
our lakes
I've been hearing about these aquatic
invaders in our state
Non-native plants and animals, threaten
waters far and wide
They'd love to sneak their way into a lake
they've never tried*

*The Ballad of AIS
Scott Gatzke*

Love Your Lake



**Prevent
Eradicate
Control**



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Already In Our Lake



Cabomba Fanwort

- Native to South America
- Stems reach lengths of up to 30ft
- Forms dense mats at water surface
- Out-competes native vegetation
- Can be spread through fragments



Eurasian Water Milfoil

- Native to Europe & Asia
- Stems reach lengths of up to 20ft
- Leaves are about 2in long
- Reddish-brown flowers reach surface
- Submersed plant can reach shore to shore

What You Can Do To



The Spread of Invasive Species

Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment

Remove visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud

Drain water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers

Dispose unwanted bait and other animals or plants in trash

Spray/Rinse boats and recreation equipment with high pressure water or hot tap water

Dry for at least 5 days

Report new sightings

Possibility of Invasion



Water Chestnut

- Native to southern Europe & Asia
- Stems can reach lengths of up to 16 feet
- Forms extensive floating mats
- Nuts are 3cm and have 4 sharp barbs
- Nuts remain viable for up to 12 years



Zebra Mussel

- Native to western Asia
- Fingernail sized
- Only freshwater mussel that attaches to objects
- Can clog pipes & intake systems
- Produces up to 100,000 eggs per year

