

Identify the waterweeds!

Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*

Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis*

Nuttall's waterweed is often paler green in colour than Canadian waterweed.

Canadian waterweed is dark green.

The leaves occur in groups of three, rarely four.

The leaves are widest at the base and taper towards the tip.

The leaves of Nuttall's waterweed are often strongly curled.

The shape of the leaves ranges from straight to strongly curled.

The stems are thin and irregularly branched.

The leaves of Canadian waterweed are not strongly curled.



Waterweeds are submerged plants, meaning they grow entirely underwater. The stems range in length from a few centimetres to roughly two metres. They grow either rooted in the bottom or freely floating. Waterweeds thrive in lakes, rivers, and brackish water.

Keep your equipment clean!

Prevent the spread by removing plant material from your fishing gear. Check and thoroughly clean your boat and boating equipment. Do not keep Nuttall's waterweed or Canadian waterweed in your aquarium or decorative pond.

Report your observations!

If you spot Nuttall's waterweed or Canadian waterweed, report it to:

vieraslajit.fi (Finland)
invasivaarter.nu (Sweden)
[iNaturalist app](#) (both countries)



Spread

Waterweeds reproduce vegetatively from fragments of stems that take root in a new location. They spread by attaching to, for example, boat engines, fishing gear, and waterfowl.

Harmfulness

Waterweeds grow in dense masses and displace other plant species. They can affect the survival of other animal and plant species in the waterbody. Waterweeds can also complicate boating, fishing, and swimming.



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