

MI Paddle Stewards management and follow-up action guide

You found and reported an invasive aquatic plant. What's next?

Is it on the [Michigan watchlist](#)?

Yes
Finding a watchlist species may launch a state-funded management response.
Contact your local local [CISMA](#) or find relevant agency staff on the [Michigan watchlist page](#) for further direction.

Tip: Dive deeper with the [Michigan Landowner's Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Management](#).

No
Find out who owns or manages it. Your county office can often help.

Is it on your property?

Yes
Look up [best management practices](#) for this species.

I need more advice
Contact your local [CISMA](#) for expert advice.

Tip: Get activity-specific advice for cleaning gear and preventing spread at [PlayCleanGo.org](#).

Potential next steps:
Contact the landowner to share what you found, what impacts it may have, and management options.

Offer to contact a local watershed, conservation group, or CISMA to host a work day to remove the species.

Contact your local [CISMA](#) to see if they have any grant funding.

Tip: You may need to label the bags as "invasive plants." Check with your waste hauler.

Tip: Dive deeper with the [Guide to Invasive Plant Disposal](#).

I'm ready to move forward

Can the species be effectively hand removed (e.g., pulled)?

Yes
Hand remove the species. Place into double-layered black garbage bags for disposal.

No, but it's not causing problems
Management may not be necessary. Try to contain it and prevent it from spreading by cleaning any vehicles and gear that pass through this area.

Offer to contact a local watershed, conservation group, or CISMA to host a work day to remove the species.

Monitor the species for re-growth each year and repeat treatments as necessary.

No, and it needs to go
If chemical control is required and/or plants are in standing water, you may need to get a permit from the state of Michigan or hire a contractor.

Tip: To find local contractors, ask your CISMA, check the [MDARD](#) list, or contact the [EGLE Aquatic Nuisance Control Program](#).

Try to manage the entire infestation in one year.

Is the species widespread?

Yes
If you cannot remove the patch in one year, focus on managing small sections or around the edges to control the spread.

Tip: Follow [best management practices](#) for hiring a contractor and make sure work is conducted with appropriate chemicals at the correct [time of the year](#).

Tip: Your CISMA may also know of larger projects that yours could be bundled with, reducing costs. Or ask your neighbors if they have the same invasive species and hire a contractor together.

Tip: Remember to decontaminate your equipment using guidelines from MI Paddle Stewards or [PlayCleanGo.org](#).