

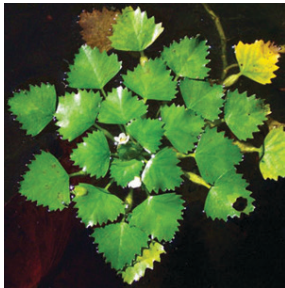
# WATER CHESTNUT INFO SHEET

Not to be confused with the Asian delicacy, the Chinese Water Chestnut, this invasive Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is native to Europe and has been clogging Northeast waterways since the 1800s. In its native range, Water Chestnut populations are kept in check by local insects. Now, it can be found in all New York counties along Lake Champlain and in three out of six lakeshore counties in Vermont.



## You CAN Remove Water Chestnut from Your Shore

### STEP 1. IDENTIFY



Water Chestnut is a rooted aquatic annual that dies back at the end of each growing season. It has submerged and floating leaves that form a rosette at the end of a stem that can reach up to 15 feet in length. The floating glossy green leaves are triangular with toothed edges and prominent veins.

Each rosette is capable of producing up to twenty hard, nut-like fruits featuring sharp spines. Water Chestnut start to produce fruits in July, which ripen underwater in about a month, each contain a single seed.



## STEP 2. REMOVE

Water Chestnut can form nearly impenetrable floating mats of vegetation creating a hazard for water recreation and limiting sunlight penetration, reducing, and in many cases eliminating, the growth of native aquatic plants. Decomposing Water Chestnut infestations can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, impacting native aquatic organisms and potentially leading to fish kills. Water Chestnut reproduces by seed and fragmentation, making it highly invasive.

Control: Early detection and a rapid response are key to preventing high-impact infestations. Because Water Chestnut is an annual plant, effective control can be achieved if seed formation is prevented. Small populations can be pulled by hand working from canoes or kayaks. Bag the pulled plants and deliver to a commercial composting site that accepts invasive plant material. Call your local composting facility to inquire. In Northern Vermont, Green Mountain Compost in Williston accepts some invasive plants (as of June 2019). You may also dispose of pulled plants in brush piles away from water. Large infestations require the use of mechanical harvesters or the application of aquatic herbicides.

Prevention: Clean, drain, and dry your watercraft (including canoe and kayaks), trailer, and boating equipment before and after each use on Lake Champlain and other waterbodies.



## STEP 3. MONITOR

Be vigilant. Inspect the infestation site each year to deal with any new Water Chestnut growth.

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**For more information:**

Please give us a call at 802-862-4150 or visit [www.lclt.org/](http://www.lclt.org/)



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