

Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification Protocol

The Bolton lakes (Lower, Middle, Upper and Cedar Swamp) are inspected regularly by both professional and volunteer surveyors for the presence of invasive aquatic plants. Equally important, however, is monitoring by people who use our waterways on a daily basis. The following protocol can be used by residents, fishermen and boaters to determine if suspicious plants are non-native or invasive and pose a threat to the health of our natural resources or to recreational safety.

These guidelines can be used in conjunction with published descriptions of problem plants. Information about invasive species can be found in [Connecticut's Aquatic and Wetland Invasive Plant Identification Guide Bulletin 2nd Ed. Bulletin 1035](#). Public plant identification training sessions are also sponsored periodically by State and municipal resource agencies – watch local newspapers for announcements.

If you find an aquatic plant that you suspect is non-native or invasive, please collect a sample and submit it for formal identification. Follow the steps below to ensure the most accurate determination:

1. Email a photograph of the plant sample to Bolton Lake Commissioner Kim Welch at Kim.Welch@boltonct.org . To assist in identification please spread the sample on a piece of white paper in a manner that makes sure the key characteristic features of the plant are visible.
2. Email the following information with the photograph:
 - Collector's name, address, phone number and/or email address.
 - The date the plant was found.
 - The location where the plant was found.
 - Whether the plant was 1) rooted in that location, 2) loosely floating, or washed ashore.
 - Whether there was a sizable population of the plant in that location.
 - Any additional information.
3. Please retain and refrigerate the sample in a ziploc bag containing enough water to keep it moist. Label the bag with your name and the date and location of collection.
4. You will be notified if the plant has been identified from your photograph. If further examination is required for identification, you will be asked to deliver the refrigerated sample to Kim Welch at 51 Vernon Rd, Bolton, CT