



SHASTA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE – HYDRILLA DECLARED ERADICATED IN SHASTA COUNTY

Shasta County Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) have declared that hydrilla, *Hydrilla verticillata*, has been eradicated from Shasta County. The original infestation was discovered in 1985, with subsequent finds in 1994.

Hydrilla, along with the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, is on CDFA's top ten list of quarantined invasive pests they intend to keep out of California. This plant reproduces and spreads rapidly, clogging waterways to such an extent that irrigation, navigation, fishing and other recreational activities become impossible.

The original infestation was in ponds in Anderson and with additional intensive surveys, it was found in several ponds in the Redding area along the Sacramento River. CDFA staff have treated and surveyed ponds throughout the area to ensure this pest has not spread. The ponds where hydrilla had been found were restricted from fishing, boating and swimming.

To declare hydrilla eradicated, CDFA staff had to treat the ponds, including dredging some of them, and have negative surveys for a seven year period. Paul Kjos, Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner stated, "Without the cooperation of the landowners and the persistence of CDFA staff, this pest may have infested the Sacramento River, which would have been catastrophic to the entire state's waterways."

With the declaration of eradication, CDFA and Shasta County staff will continue to survey the area to keep Shasta County free of this aquatic pest. For more information, please call Paul Kjos at 224-4949.

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