



Vermont Invasive Patrollers

provide a vital line of defense against harmful invasive species that can threaten the ecology and recreational potential of our lakes and rivers. VIPs are trained to identify and distinguish between native and invasive aquatic plants and animals, and to conduct systematic surveys for aquatic invaders like Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels.

Each summer, VIPs monitor their local waterbodies and report results to Vermont DEC. Newly detected invasive species can be responded to immediately, before the new invaders become well established.



Variable-leaved watermilfoil



For more information, visit us online at:
www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov

Or contact:

Bethany Sargent
Vermont DEC
Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522
bethany.sargent@state.vt.us
(802) 490-6129



Vermont Invasive Patrollers

*Protecting Vermont's waters
from harmful invasive species
through early detection*



Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species pose a serious threat to the ecological integrity and recreational potential of Vermont's waters.

For example, once introduced, Eurasian



watermilfoil (at right) and water chestnut (at left) can grow to extremely high densities, hampering boating, fishing and swimming, and threatening to outcompete native species.



Eurasian watermilfoil



Zebra mussel

Zebra mussels (at left) can clog water intake pipes, clutter beaches, encrust docks and equipment, and threaten our native mussels.

There are numerous other potentially invasive species on our doorstep.

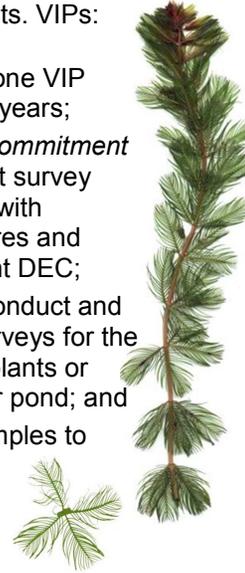
Early detection is vital to protecting Vermont's waterbodies from harmful invasive plants and animals. When invasive species are detected soon after introduction, before they have had a chance to become well established, they can often be managed more effectively and, in some cases, even be eradicated.



You can help—join the Vermont Invasive Patrollers!

Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIPs) monitor a local waterbody for new introductions of invasive species while also learning about native aquatic plants and animals and their habitats. VIPs:

- Participate in at least one VIP workshop every three years;
- Sign a *Statement of Commitment* promising to document survey results in accordance with standardized procedures and report them to Vermont DEC;
- During the summer, conduct and submit at least two surveys for the presence of invasive plants or animals in your lake or pond; and
- Submit suspicious samples to DEC staff for positive identification.



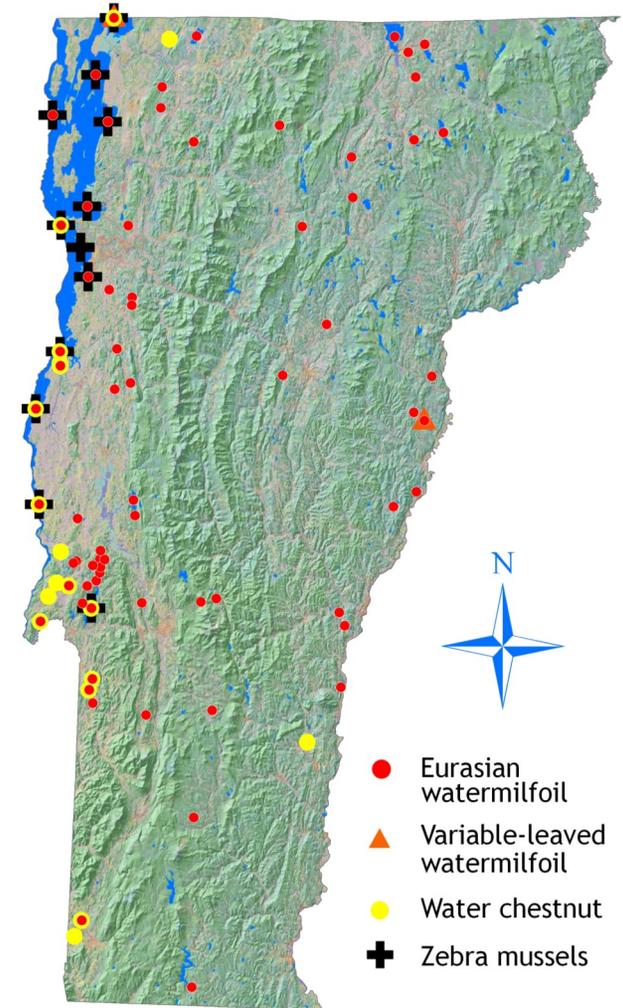
Anyone can be a VIP!
No prior knowledge or experience is necessary.

VIP Workshops

A basic VIP workshop spans approximately four hours, split between classroom time and "field" time on the water. In this workshop participants will learn:

- The difference between native, exotic, nuisance and invasive species;
- How invasive species are introduced and established;
- How to identify common aquatic plants and animals, both native and invasive; and
- How to conduct surveys of native and invasive species in their natural habitats.

Some Known Invasive Species Infestations



- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Variable-leaved watermilfoil
- Water chestnut
- Zebra mussels

Approximate percentage of Vermont lakes **NOT** infested with:

- Eurasian watermilfoil: 79%
- Variable-leaved watermilfoil: 99%
- Water chestnut: 95%
- Zebra mussels: 99%