


# Management Measures for Widely Spread Species (WSS) in Northern Ireland

## Parrot's feather

### *(Myriophyllum aquaticum)*

As per Article 19 requirement of EU Regulation 1143/2014  
*on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of  
invasive alien species*

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

<b>Parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i></b>		
<b>Description</b>	Much-branched aquatic plant with finely pinnately-dissected whorls of leaves, which produces emergent shoot apices up to 13 cm high, usually glaucous or pale green because of abundant glands and bearing flowers.	
<b>NI Status</b>	Established in many lakes and ponds across Northern Ireland. Occurs in eutrophic ponds, ditches, reservoirs, canals and flooded mineral workings; it occasionally also occurs in flowing waters. For current distribution visit <a href="#">NBN Atlas Northern Ireland</a> .	
<b>Pathways</b>	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> was once popular in the aquatic nursery trade. Escapes from garden ponds and fragmentation of natural populations in flowing systems has led to establishment of new colonies; perhaps enhanced by recreational boating, angling or by deliberate transplantation.	
<b>Aim</b>	To contain and, where possible, carry out eradications.	
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure strict biosecurity when working in proximity to <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> to avoid further spread.</li> <li>2. Eradicate small population <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> locally, prioritising especially vulnerable sites (e.g. ASSIs) and in areas where plant fragments are likely to escape to other water bodies.</li> <li>3. Where populations are discovered in new, high priority sites (e.g. ASSIs) attempt eradication, and revisit later in the season and in subsequent years.</li> <li>4. Reduce distribution across N.I. by 50% by 2030.</li> <li>5. Widespread restoration of native species and habitats</li> </ol>	
<b>Prevention</b>		
<b>Border and pathway actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014, as well as under Article 15 (2) of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it is an offence to plant this species, or otherwise cause it to grow, in the wild.</li> <li>- Under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation it is also an offence to import into the EU, keep, grow or cultivate, transport (to, from or within the EU; except to facilitate eradication), place on the market, use or exchange this species - <b>unless there are specific exemption or permit</b>.</li> <li>- ID sheet developed and deployed to border staff – Border Force, Portal Inspectors (DAERA), Plant Health Inspectorate (DAERA/FS), etc.</li> <li>- Liaison with Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAWNI) to ensure species is not being traded.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Stakeholder communications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to raise public and other stakeholder awareness of invasive non-native aquatic plants and provide advice including guidance on control methods and identification information.</li> <li>- Awareness campaigns (<a href="#">Check/Clean/Dry</a> and <a href="#">Be Plant Wise</a>) to alert water users, gardeners and retailers to the threat the species poses.</li> <li>- Gardeners who have it growing in their private ponds, must act responsibly and not cultivate it or its seed to spread further inside or outside of their land-holding and if in a sensitive area, they may be asked to remove it completely to avoid risk. Owners should consider safely removing and disposing of any plant covered by the IAS Regulation by composting or burning or transfer to landfill in line with 'Be Plant Wise' campaign <a href="http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/">http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/</a></li> <li>- Traders are not permitted to purchase or sell this species.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Early detection and rapid response</b></p>	
<p><b>Surveillance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new, dedicated surveillance mechanism is not necessary as a number of existing recording schemes allow reporting of this species:</li> <li>- In Northern Ireland species records are entered to CEDaR online recording via <a href="http://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI">www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI</a> or via the Invasive Species Ireland website - <a href="http://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting/">http://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting/</a>. Entering a record generates an email to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Team.</li> <li>- The Botanical Society of the British Isles Map Scheme also compiles comprehensive distribution maps for plants across the UK.</li> <li>- The Biological Records Centre (<a href="http://www.brc.ac.uk">www.brc.ac.uk</a>) collects presence records of all wildlife species in the UK through a network of voluntary recorders on <a href="#">iRecord</a> online or by the <a href="#">iRecord app</a>. The BRC provides the opportunity to download distribution data and visualise it as customisable maps, via the National Biodiversity Network Atlas Northern Ireland (<a href="https://northernireland.nbnatlas.org/">https://northernireland.nbnatlas.org/</a>).</li> <li>- Relevant Government agencies such as DfI Roads/Rivers, AFBI, Loughs Agency, Forest Service and Northern Ireland Environment Agency record the presence of invasive non-native species as a part of their work and will then initiate management measures for WSS on their own sites.</li> <li>- Non-Governmental Organisations (e.g. Rivers and Fishery Trusts and Boards, Wildlife Trusts, etc.) undertake surveys of freshwater habitats and report incidental sightings of invasive non-native species and will then initiate management measures for WSS on their own sites.</li> <li>- All N.I. Councils to also record and report presence of invasive non-native species on their estates and initiate management measures for WSS on their own sites.</li> </ul>

<b>Rapid response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiate a rapid eradication of <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> following a confirmed sighting when it is first discovered in a new catchment.</li> <li>- Once widespread, control is extremely difficult.</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mechanical control is effective for removing large infestations where access is possible. Methods such as raking, chaining, or using excavators with weed buckets that remove the root are more effective than cutting. Care should be taken to restrict the downstream movement of stem fragments as regrowth is rapid from these propagules and the stems of this species are especially brittle.</li> <li>- Chemical control – currently no herbicides licensed for use in water in N.I.</li> <li>- Recolonisation from original sources will often occur unless the source of material is eliminated.</li> </ul>	
<b>Research</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No known current research.</li> </ul>	

Photos: © GB Non-Native Species Secretariat 2018



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