



Sunset Lake Invasive Species Guide

Visit www.slahampstead.org for more information

Date revised: January 3, 2022

Sunset Lake currently has only one invasive animal species (Asian Clam) and two emergent (shoreline) plant species (Purple Loosestrife and Common Reed). However, there are many other waterbodies in NH with invasive species that could easily spread to Sunset Lake as documented by this NHDES map and spreadsheet:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/resource-center/publications?keys=AISinfestation>

Invasive species that are in waterbodies local to Sunset Lake are specifically noted on the following pages.

Please help stop the introduction and infestation of invasive species in Sunset Lake. If a lake becomes infested with an invasive species, early detection is crucial in order to implement a rapid management response.

Use the photos and descriptions in this guide to help identify invasive species.

If you think you've found an exotic aquatic species:

1. Record the exact location of the sighting. If you have a buoy use it to mark the location.
2. Collect a specimen including a piece of stem with leaves as well as any flowers or fruit if present.
3. Wrap the specimen in a moist (not dripping) paper towel, place in a sealable plastic bag, put it in an envelope and contact your [district delegate](#) or info@slahampstead.org





OR





1. Take a digital picture of the plant including the stem with leaves as well as any flowers or fruit if present. Use a pen or coin next to the plant in the photo to provide some sense of scale.
2. Email the photo and with a description of the exact location to your [district delegate](#) or info@slahampstead.org





What else can we do?

Take preventative actions to avoid the spread of both invasive aquatic plants and animals.
Use legally mandated Clean, Drain, and Dry techniques to avoid tag-along plants and animals.
Spread the word to other lake users.





For more information visit www.slahampstead.org/invasive-species

	Common Name	Habitat	Description
	<p>Floating Yellow Heart</p>	<p>Floating</p>	<p>Water lily-like growth habit with bright, yellow flowers about an inch or so in diameter. 2-5 flowers from each flower stalk. 5 petals per flower with a distinctive fringe along the edges of the petals arranged like the spokes of a wheel. Heart-shaped floating leaves with slightly wavy margins and purplish undersides. Flowers June-Sept.</p>
	<p>Frogbit</p>	<p>Floating</p>	<p>The plant can float free or put down roots up to 50 cm long in shallow water. It produces a single white flower up to 2cm wide with 3 rounded petals and a yellow center. Leaves are 2.5 to five cm wide – about the size of a Canadian one-dollar coin – and round to heart-shaped. They form a rosette up to 6 cm wide. Leaf bottom is purple-red with a spongy coating along the middle vein of the leaf that allows it to float on the water.</p>
	<p>Water Chestnut</p>	<p>Floating</p>	<p>Floating triangular toothed leaves forming rosettes and submerged feather-like leaves along the stem/cord like stems/bladder-like swelling on floating leaves/small whitish to green flower June-Sept/spinney fruit</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN THE NASHUA RIVER</p>
	<p>Variable Milfoil</p>	<p>Submerged/ Emergent flower stalks</p>	<p>Densely packed fine feather-like leaves whorled along main stem/emergent flower stalk green spike like flowers with football shaped bracts June-July. Stem cross section reveals “pie shaped” air chambers. Native look-alike: Coontail, Bladderwort, Native milfoil</p> <p>THIS IS THE MOST PROLIFIC INVASIVE SPECIES KNOWN TO BE PRESENT IN MANY NH WATER BODIES INCLUDING LOCALLY IN SHOP POND (LAST VERIFIED ~2016), BIG ISLAND POND, AND LOCAL TOWNS AUBURN, DANVILLE, DERRY, KINGSTON, PELHAM, SALEM, AND WINDHAM.</p>

	Common Name	Habitat	Description
	Eurasian Milfoil	Submerged/ Emergent flower stalks	<p>Feather-like leaves whorled around main stem that appear to be clipped on the end. Reddish shoot near the surface/emergent flower stalk green flowers with bracts smaller than flowers. Native look-alikes: Coontail, Bladderwort, Native milfoil</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN MINE FALLS POND (NASHUA) AND THE NASHUA RIVER</p>
	Parrot Feather	Submerged/ Emergent flower stalks	<p>Very small compact feather-like leaves whorled around stem. emerged and submerged leaves similar/ flowers opposite, emergent</p>
	Curley-leaf Pondweed	Submerged	<p>Oblong leaves with very curly edges, leaf margins finely toothed/winter buds generally present</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN MINE FALLS POND (NASHUA) AND THE NASHUA RIVER</p>
	Brazilian Elodea	Submerged	<p>A very bushy plant with dense whorls of bright green leaves (in shaded conditions, leaves may be widely spaced). Typically 4 leaves per whorl (arranged around the stem). Each leaf is usually less than .4" long with 3-petaled, white blooms, less than .4" in diameter, that float on the water. Mature leaves radiate from the stems in sets of 4. Native look-alikes: Native Elodea</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN NUTTS POND IN MANCHESTER</p>

	Common Name	Habitat	Description
	<p>Fanwort</p>	<p>Submerged</p>	<p>Branching bright green narrow leaves forming fan shape opposite on stem. Floating lily-like leaves float on surface when flowering. White flowers with small lily pad-like structures July-Sept. Native look-alikes: Coontail, Bladderwort, Native milfoil</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN SHOP POND AND BIG ISLAND POND (HAMPSTEAD) AND IN SALEM, DERRY, AND AUBURN</p>
	<p>European/Spiny/ Brittle Naiad</p>	<p>Submerged</p>	<p>Leaves are lime green, very slender and 1 ¾" long with 6-15 deep conspicuous teeth along margin. Leaves are usually opposite each other with a wide base that tapers to a sharp tip. Brittle, re-curved leaves branch profusely at the apex, giving a minor a bushy appearance. Small 1.5 – 3 mm fruits develop in the leaf axils. Fruits are slightly curved with white ladder-like longitudinal rows.</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN BIG ISLAND POND AND IN SALEM, NASHUA, AND NORTHWOOD</p>
	<p>Hydrilla</p>	<p>Submerged</p>	<p>Heavily branching erect stems/Small pointed bright green leaves toothed along margin, leaf whorls of 3-10 (5 most common) along main stem/Very small white flowers near water surface/peanut-sized tubers in sediments. Native look-alikes: Waterweed Elodea nuttalii: leaves in 3s whorled around stem with narrow leaves, no teeth on margin of leaf</p>
	<p>Common Reed</p>	<p>Emergent</p>	<p>Stems 3-14' tall, leaves alternate along stem/Reddish to silver flowering head forming large tuft.</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT ON THE SHORES OF SUNSET LAKE AND IN ANGLE POND (HAMPSTEAD)</p>

	Common Name	Habitat	Description
	Purple Loosestrife	Emergent	<p>Woody square stem average 5' tall/leaves opposite or whorled along stem/long spikes of magenta purple flowers July-Sept</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT ON THE SHORES OF SUNSET LAKE AND ANGLE POND (HAMPSTEAD)</p>
	Flowering Rush	Emergent	<p>Emerges in spring. Emergent leaves are stiff, narrow, sedge-like (3-edged or triangular in cross-section) and up to 3 feet above the water surface. In deep water, the plant can be entirely submerged. Submerged plants have limp leaves and do not flower. Often unnoticed among other wetland plants until it blossoms, flowering rush has a distinctive spray of attractive white, pink, or purple flowers on a tall stalk. Blooming in late summer to early fall, flowers have 3 petals, 3 sepals and red anthers.</p>
	Asian Clam		<p>Adults typically less than 1.5" long. May form dense clusters with thousands/sq. meter. Prefers sandy substrate in quite warmer sunlit waters.</p> <p>THIS IS PRESENT IN SUNSET LAKE. IT IS ALSO KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN BEAVER LAKE (DERRY), COBBET'S POND (WINDHAM), GREAT POND (KINGSTON), LONG POND (PELHAM), AND THE MERRIMACK RIVER.</p>
	Chinese Mystery Snail		<p>Adult snails are over 1 ½ inches in length. Shell color varies from olive green to brown to reddish brown. The shell has 6-7 whorls and no banding. They have an operculum (trapdoor), which seals off the snail from adverse water conditions.</p> <p>THIS IS KNOWN TO BE LOCALLY PRESENT IN ANGLE POND (HAMPSTEAD)</p>

	Common Name	Habitat	Description
	<p>Quagga Mussel</p>		<p>Generally black, yellow, and/or zig-zagged. The quagga mussel shell resembles the zebra mussel but can be distinguished from the zebra mussel shell because it is paler toward the end of the hinge. It is also slightly larger than the zebra mussel, about ¾ in. wide, roughly about the size of an adult human's thumbnail, but can get as large as 1.5 in.</p> <p>NOT YET FOUND IN NH, BUT IS IN MA AND NY</p>
	<p>Zebra Mussel</p>		<p>Striped pattern commonly seen on their shells, though it is not universally present. They are usually about the size of a fingernail, but can grow to a maximum length of nearly 2 in. Shells are D-shaped, and attached to the substrate with strong fibers, which come out of their hinged side.</p> <p>NOT YET FOUND IN NH, BUT IS IN CT, MA, NY, AND VT</p>
 <p data-bbox="142 976 491 1003">Multiple fleas on fishing line:</p> 	<p>Spiny Water Flea</p>		<p>A small crustacean that grows up to 0.6 in long and has a long, straight tail spine that is twice as long as its body.</p> <p>NOT YET FOUND IN NH, BUT IS IN NY AND GREAT LAKES REGION</p>

For more information about the NHDES Invasive Species program visit:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/home-and-recreation/boating-and-fishing/invasive-species>