

Offut Lake Weed Survey

August 17, 2023

Offut Lake Management District (OLMD) Survey Team:

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What is the difference between a weed survey and an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP)?

- A **weed survey** is done by experienced volunteers collecting and recording data, recording the types of weeds, their location and dominance (amount). Samples are normally taken once a month at designated points around the lake recording the latitude, longitude, water depth, and distance from shore. This is OLMD's first weed survey.
- An **IAVMP** is required by the RCW and is a scientific study of the lake done by professionals like: (Herrera Environmental Consultants, Tetra Tech). The IAVMP is used by LMDs to develop a scientific work plan to address lake issues identified by the study. We are currently working on a grant to help subsidize the IAVMP that we hope to have in Spring 2024.

Quick Summary

- We found these weeds: Water Nymph, Fragrant Waterlily, Common elodea, Coontail, Sago Pondweed, Bladderwort, Big-Leaf Pondweed, Yellow Flag Iris, and Filamental Algae.
- We identified these invasive weeds: Fragrant Waterlily and Yellow Flag Iris.
- We identified nuisance levels of Water nymph and Big Leaf Pond Weed (levels ranging from 3-4+). Levels of 3 or higher qualify are considered a hindrance to recreational use of the lake for things like: swimming, fishing, and boating.
- You can see the complete Offut Lake Weed Survey Sheet indicating the dominance levels on our website: <https://offutlakecommunity.godaddysites.com/>
- You can watch a YouTube video, created by Barry Halverson, showing various parts of our August 17, 2023, lake survey and our methodology. The video link is on the Resources page of our website. Here is a direct link to that video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j95hhdPyyNI>

What is the difference between an invasive species and a nuisance species?

- Invasive species are usually spread by humans. Once established, they become increasingly difficult to manage. Early detection of invasives is key to containment and practical management.
- Nuisance species may be native or non-native and may cause ecological and economic harm.

Dominance Levels

The grid and descriptions to the right are from the Washington State Department of Ecology. These were used to identify the "dominance level" (amount) of weeds at each location.

Dominance	
Thick, Excludes Others	4
Nearly Mono-Specific Patches	3
Few, Wide Patches	2
Few, in 1-3 Locations	1
Trace (1-3 Plants)	T

Useful links:

- [Aquatic Weed Control Technical Assistance](#)
- [Aquatic Plant Identification Manual for Washington's Freshwater Plants](#)
- [Glossary—Terms and definitions regarding aquatic plants](#)

The pictures below represent the weeds identified in the Offut Lake survey.

The pictures are from the the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) website. Each picture is also a link to the DOE website with more information about each weed. You can visit the DOE website page containing more extensive weed information using this link:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gisresources/lakes/AquaticPlantGuide/SubmersedIndex.html>

Nymphaea odorata, Fragrant Waterlily, White Waterlily



Dominance level: 4+
Invasive Species

Iris pseudacorus, Yellow Flag Iris



Dominance level: 4+
Invasive Species

Potamogeton amplifolius, Big-leaf Pondweed



Dominance level: 1-4+
Nuisance levels found

Najas flexilis, Slender Water-nymph or Naiad



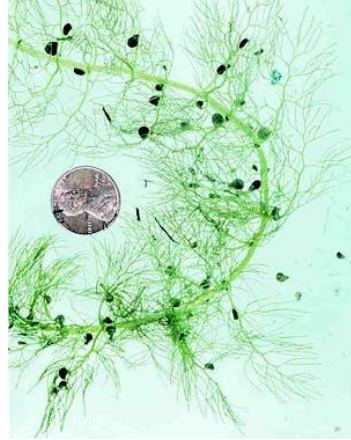
Dominance level: 1-4+
Nuisance levels found

Elodea canadensis, Common Waterweed



Dominance level: 1

Nuphar polysepala, Spatterdock, Yellow Cow Lily,
Utricularia vulgaris, Common Bladderwort



Dominance level: T

Filamentous Green Algae



Dominance level:

Ceratophyllum demersum, Coontail, Hornwort



Dominance level: 2

Contact us at: info.offut.lake@gmail.com and tell us how you would like to get involved!