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Water Quality



Water hyacinth may look pretty, but it's a weed that grows faster than any known plant.



The California Department of Boating and Waterways is responsible for clearing the hyacinth, which can double in size every 10 days.

Aquatic Weed Alert!

The colorful and often-beautiful water hyacinth is quickly taking over the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

This is a concern for CCWD because the only source of water for the 550,000 District customers is the Delta, and the hyacinth -- which grows faster than any known plant -- has the potential to degrade CCWD's water quality.

The hyacinth, a South American plant imported into California in the early 1900s, not only chokes waterways but reduces oxygen levels in water and increases the deposit of silt and organic matter at several times the normal rate.

All of which is bad for the Delta, our drinking water supply, fish and the ecosystem.

Want more information? [Click here.](#)

What can you do?

Do not use water hyacinth to decorate ornamental ponds. It could get into waterways and storm drains.

If you have hyacinth in your pond, put the plants in a plastic bag, seal it, and then send it to the garbage (seeds can still germinate after 25 to 30 years).

Check bilge pumps and boating equipment when leaving an infested area to make sure you are not spreading the weed.

If you see hyacinth in the Delta, report it to the **California Department of Boating and Waterways (888) 326-2822**.





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