

# Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Defined

The ecosystem of Greenwood Lake has many native species that are well adapted to the conditions and other organisms present in the lake. When a non-native or exotic species is introduced, it has no natural controls (animals or other plants to limit its growth). When a species dominates or significantly alters the local ecosystem, it is considered an invasive species.

## How AIS Get Into The Lake

AIS are introduced to the lake in a variety of ways including hitching rides on various surfaces, accidental release from aquariums, escape from water gardens and intentional introduction.

AIS are further spread unintentionally by boaters when plant fragments are tangled on boats, motors, trailers, fishing gear and dive gear.

Some species, including the Zebra Mussel, have a microscopic larval form that can travel undetected in ballast water, cooling water, live-well water and bait bucket water to new locations.

For more information and to contact us, please visit our website at

[www.gwlc.org](http://www.gwlc.org)



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# Aquatic Invasive Species



*Do Your Part To...*  
**Prevent  
Eradicate - Control**



**Greenwood Lake  
Commission**

*Education Series*

[www.gwlc.org](http://www.gwlc.org)



# Already In The Lake

## WATER CHESTNUT

- Native to southern Europe & Asia
- Stems of these species can reach lengths of up to 16 feet
- Plants form extensive floating mats
- Nuts are 3 cm and have 4 sharp barbs
- Nuts remain viable for up to 12 years



## Zebra Mussel

- Native to western Asia
- Fingernail sized
- They are the only freshwater mussel that attaches to objects
- Mussels can clog pipes and intake systems
- Species produces up to 100,000 eggs per year



# Do Your Part

## HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- **Inspect** your boat, trailer, and equipment for fragments of plants and other species
- **Remove** and properly dispose of visible aquatic plants, animals and mud
- **Drain** water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells and bait containers before launching and NOT into the lake
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait and other animals or plants in trash
- **Spray/Rinse** boats and recreation equipment with high pressure water or hot tap water
- **Dry** for at least 5 days
- **Report** new sightings of species in the area
- **Educate** family, neighbors and visitors



# Already In The Lake

## CAMBOMBA FANWORT

- Native to South America
- Stems reach lengths of up to 30 feet
- Forms dense mats at water surface
- Out-competes native vegetation
- Can be spread through fragments



## Eurasian WaterMilfoil

- Native to Europe and Asia
- Stems reach lengths of up to 20 feet
- Leaves are about 2 inches long
- Reddish-brown flowers reach surface
- Submersed plant can reach shore to shore

