



Scouting Water Chestnut in the Connecticut River Watershed

Water chestnut (*trapa natans*) is an annual aquatic plant not native to the United States, categorized as an invasive species in the Connecticut River Watershed. The water chestnut hogs space and nutrients, preventing other plants and animals from living there.

How to scout and report water chestnut sightings:

1. Download The Water Reporter app, or log onto the [website](#). Create a profile.
2. Select the search icon, and search for the “Connecticut River Conservancy” and “follow” the group. Please set up an account before you are in the field so that you can be granted access to the reporting forms ahead of time.
3. Once you are part of the group and you have been given access to the forms, you can start reporting! Click the blue pencil icon to record a report and select the folder” log a new water chestnut infestation”
4. Follow the steps on the screen, snap a picture, and to report a sighting, select the green checkmark at the bottom to save.
5. Done! Keep recording whenever you see an infestation and try to monitor your site every 3-4 weeks. Check out our [website](#) to follow infestations watershed-wide.

Water chestnut Anatomy

Water chestnut is a rooted, floating aquatic plant with rosettes of leaves that float on the surface of the water that appear to be radiating from a central point. They are triangular or slightly diamond shaped, toothed on two sides and connected to the stem by a long, flexible submerged stalk. Submerged leaves are feathery and either opposite or alternate. Very small, white four-petaled flowers bloom in July. The seeds are four-horned nut-like structures that mostly develop on the underside of the floating rosette.



If you prefer not to use the phone app or do not have access to a smartphone, all of this information can be recorded on the water reporter website. Just make sure to record the location, quantity and try to snap a photo if possible!



From your friends at the Connecticut River Conservancy, thank you for all that you do to protect our rivers!