

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

South American waterweed
Egeria densa

Other common names: Brazilian elodea,
Brazilian waterweed, leafy elodea, dense
waterweed

USDA symbol: EGDE
ODA rating: B



Introduction: *Egeria densa* is native to South American and was introduced to North American as an aquarium plant. The first documented population in the United States was in 1893. This aggressive weed can be found in practically every coastal Oregon lake; the result of aquarium dumping. Thick stands have interfered with boating, swimming and fishing opportunities wherever it was introduced.

Distribution in Oregon: *Egeria* can be found in every county in Western Oregon, especially along the coast.

Description: South American waterweed is a perennial submerged aquatic weed growing rooted to lake bottoms reaching for the surface in water depths up to 7-8 feet. Dark green leaves are up to one inch long, a quarter inch wide, joined in whorls of four to eight at each node giving it a very leafy appearance. Flowers are small, white and three-petaled, emerging above the water's surface. Reproduction is primarily by plant fragments.

Impacts: South American waterweed aggressively invades aquatic environments, forming dense stands or large surface mats and altering the dynamics of the aquatic ecosystem. It also impedes flows in waterways clogging pumps, boat propellers, and recreation areas.

Biological controls: There are no approved biological control agents available.

