

New Hampshire Rivers Council – River Runners™ Program

What to do if You Think You've Spotted an Invasive Aquatic Plant

1. If possible, use a NH DES sample submission bag; it is printed so that all pertinent information can be written on the bag. If submitting as part of the River Runners program, use a bag labeled with *NHRC*, *NHRC/RR*, or *River Runners*. If you don't have a NH DES sample submission bag, at minimum, be sure to include your name, phone number, the name of the waterbody and the town in which the sample was collected.
2. Note the location of the plant in the waterbody (find reference points on shore or a nearby island, record the location description on the bag; if possible also include GPS coordinates)
3. Collect and submit a representative specimen of the plant or algae you think is invasive:

(a.) For IAP samples a piece of the stem with leaves is necessary, as well as any flowers or fruits if they are present; use care not to create any fragments while collecting the sample. Then, wrap the collected specimen in a wet paper towel, place it in a sealable plastic bag and then place in another sealable bag to ensure against leaks. Use a small box, padded envelope, or some sort of mailer that will protect better than an envelope and send to the New Hampshire Rivers Council at 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. If you have questions about submitting your sample you can also email or call Kara at info@nhrivers.org or 603-228-6472.

(b.) For algae samples scrape or remove from a rock, woody debris, or plants. Please send a dime-sized sample in small container like a small sealable plastic bag or folded in a business card; if that is not possible, collect a small rock coated with the algae growth to submit. Place the moist sample in a sealable plastic bag, package, and send to Kara at address in (a.).

4. If you cannot mail the sample the same day it is collected, keep it moist or wet and refrigerated until you can submit it, but submit as soon after collecting as is possible.
BE SURE TO SEND YOUR AQUATIC PLANT OR ALGAE SAMPLE EARLY IN THE WEEK SO THAT IT DOES NOT OVER-WEEKEND IN-TRANSIT BEFORE IT IS IDENTIFIED. SENDING ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY IS USUALLY BEST.

5. If it is convenient, you can also deliver to NHRC in Concord. Package sample as described above. Call them first to let them know and to get info about hours the building will be open. (Usually open M-F, 9AM-5PM.)
6. New Hampshire Rivers Council staff will identify the plant and notify you of its identification. They will take appropriate management strategies if it is an exotic species.
7. BE SURE TO MAIL YOUR PLANT EARLY IN THE WEEK SO THAT IT DOES NOT OVER-WEEKEND BEFORE IT IS IDENTIFIED.

-or-

1. Take a digital image of the plant that you've collected or algae growth that you've observed/collected. Be sure to use a representative specimen of the algal growth or plant; if a plant, carefully collect a sample with fruit or flowers, if available. (Keep the sample refrigerated until you get a response from New Hampshire Rivers Council.)
2. Download this image as a .jpg, .bmp, or .tif image and e-mail it as an attachment to Kara Russell, info@nhrivers.org for identification. Include a message containing the information that is asked for on the sample submission bag, including an indication of *NHRC*, *NHRC/RR* or *River Runners*. Most important to include in your email message to Kara Russell will be your name, phone number, and the waterbody name and the town where you found the suspect plant or algae.