

Aquatic Weeds

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Cranberry School - Bandon, OR



Melaney Dunne

Coquille Watershed Association

Overview

- Impact of nuisance aquatic plants
- Mechanisms of spread
- Common problematic aquatic plants and control options

Please ask questions at any time!

Role of aquatic plants in ecosystems

- Not all species of aquatic plants are invasive and damaging
- Some provide positive benefits to water quality and fish & wildlife without harming economic activity
 - Take in excess nutrients - preventing algal blooms
 - Habitat for insects and fish
 - Stabilize sediments



Impacts of Nuisance Aquatic Plants

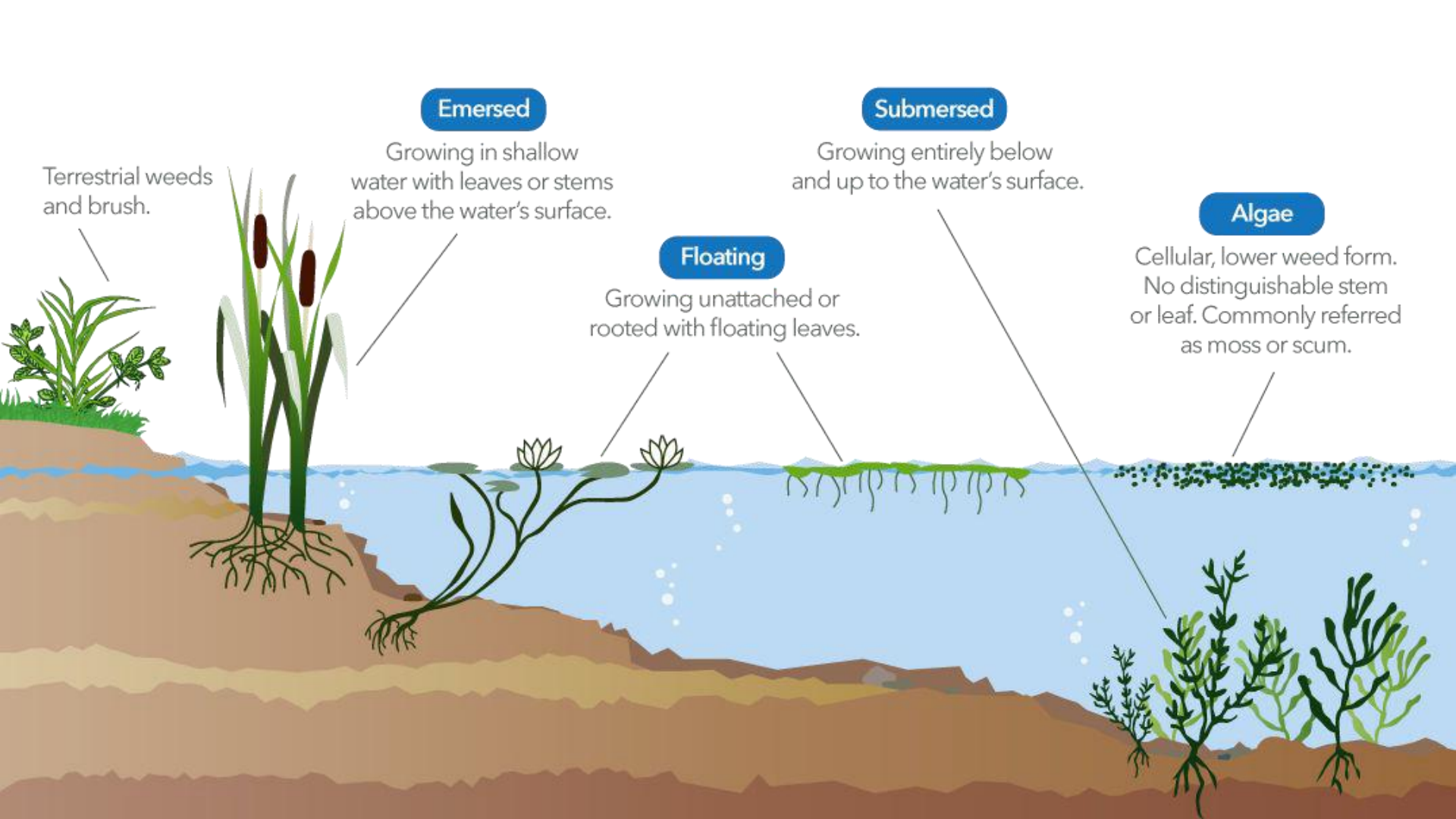
- Impact irrigation/ditches, land values, flood control, fisheries, drinking water, recreational boating and swimming, and more
- Cost: estimated that at a minimum \$100 million/year is spent on control of aquatic plants, however overall the benefits of control outweigh the costs.



Mechanisms of spread

- Using the same equipment in multiple water bodies without cleaning
 - Irrigation, boats, fishing gear, trailers, etc.
- Intentional introduction
 - Aquarium trade
- Animals: waterfowl, wetland birds





Emersed

Growing in shallow water with leaves or stems above the water's surface.

Submersed

Growing entirely below and up to the water's surface.

Floating

Growing unattached or rooted with floating leaves.

Algae

Cellular, lower weed form. No distinguishable stem or leaf. Commonly referred as moss or scum.

Terrestrial weeds and brush.



Pond-water starwort (Non-native)

Key identifying features:

- Some leaves floating at the surface of the water, some submerged
- Leaves are opposite, >1in long
- 4-12in stem

Control:

- Herbicide: Fluridone, Diquat
- Shading
- Manual removal



Milfoils (Natives and non-natives)

Key identifying features:

- Stems grow 3 to 9ft, thinning further from the mainstem
- Four, feather-like leaves

Control:

- Herbicide: 2,4-D, endothall
- Shading
- Manual Removal



Source: Roberta Hill, VLMP © 2007

Elodea (1 native, 1 non-native)

Key identifying features:

- 2 species (Canadian - native, Brazilian nonnative)
- Bright green growth
- Leaves 0.2-0.5 in long
- Growth - can be very dense, up to ~9 feet

Control:

- Herbicide: fluridone, diquat
- Shading
- Matting



Water fern/ Azolla (Non-native)

Key identifying features:

- Free floating with roots, whole structure less than 2in
- Varied color from green to red

Control:

- Herbicide: glyphosate, diquat
- Manual removal



Long-leaf Pondweed (Native)

Key identifying features:

- Long, elliptic leaves floating on surface
- Submerged leaves underwater as well
- Found in depths of 5 ft or less

Control:

- Herbicide: diquat, fluridone
(pondweeds are difficult to treat)
- Manual removal
- Shading



Questions?

The Coquille Watershed Association

- 501c3 non-profit organization with the mission to support the local economy and natural resources of the Coquille Watershed through:
 - Voluntary restoration projects on private working landscapes that enhance operations, water quality, and salmon habitat
 - Monitoring and assessment of watershed conditions
 - Outreach and education on watershed science and stewardship

