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NAS - Nonindigenous Aquatic Species

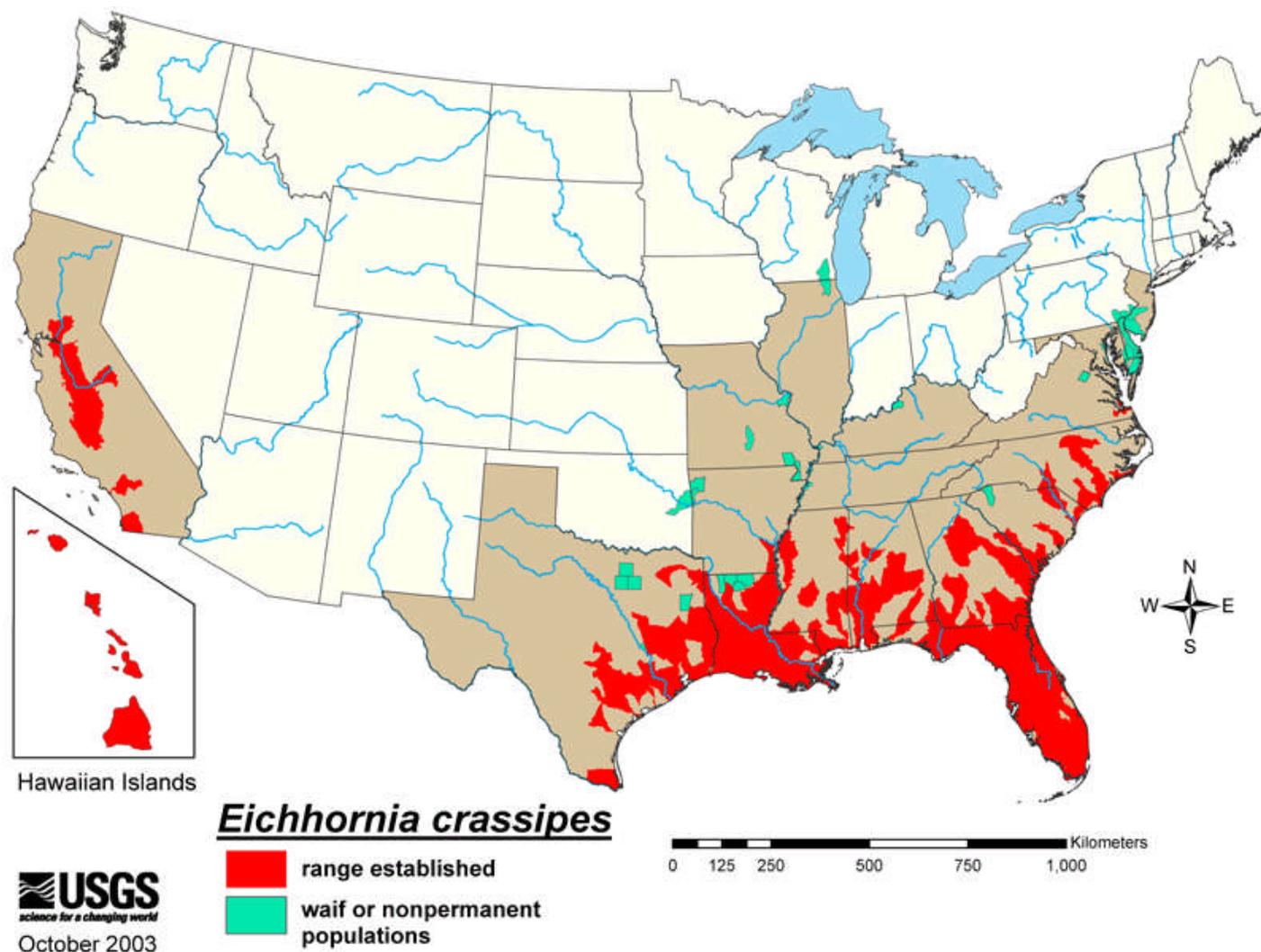
Eichhornia crassipes (Mart.) Solms

Common Name: water-hyacinth, common water-hyacinth, floating water-hyacinth

Taxonomy: Division-Magnoliophyta (Angiosperms); Class-Liliopsida (Monocots); Subclass-Liliidae; Order-Liliales; Family-Pontederiaceae (Pickerelweed Family); Genus-Eichhornia.

Description: Floating [plants](#) with thick, glossy leaves, [inflated petioles](#) and spikes of lavender flowers.

Native Range: Brazil, South America.



Range indicates presence in at least one site within a drainage ([USGS Hydrologic Unit 8](#)), but does not necessarily imply occurrence throughout.

Nonindigenous Occurrences: Established and self sustaining in over 150 U.S. drainage basins in 10 states. Recently found persisting as far north as the Lower Chesapeake [*P. Baldwin s.n.* (WILLI)] and Tidewater regions of coastal **Virginia** (pers. comm. L. Swanson, VA Coop. Ext. Agency). Weedy in **North Carolina** north and inland to the Upper Tar and Neuse River drainages (pers. comm. Stratford Kay, NC State Univ.).

Intermittently distributed in **Georgia** and **Mississippi**. Often extremely problematic in **Florida**, **Alabama**, **Louisiana** and **eastern Texas**. Also established in **California** and **Hawaii**.

Waif or nonpermanent populations have been reported from more temperate states including **New Jersey**, **Kentucky**, **Tennessee**, **Missouri** and **Arkansas** where plants apparently escape summertime cultivation to grow as annuals, but do not persist vegetatively through the winter. Water-hyacinth is stocked annually in private fish ponds throughout southern **Arizona** and in **Delaware** at old mill ponds. It has been reported from the Great Cypress Swamp, southern **Delaware** and from isolated, natural locals in **New Jersey**. Water-hyacinth is capable of reproducing by seed. However, it is not known if recurrence by seed plays a role in the waif populations of these temperate states. **October 2002** First recorded for the state of Illinois in the Fox River Chain O' Lakes in the Upper Fox drainage where several hundred plants were documented, although none are expected to overwinter (*Marencik s.n.* FLAS; pers. comm. J. Marencik, Lake Co. Health Dept, CNC). **December 2002** Reported for **Maryland** in 1998 at a pond near Lake Shore, in the Severn Drainage; this site will be checked during the 2003 growing season to see if the plants have persisted (pers. comm. W. Sipple, EPA). **October 2003** Several [plants](#) were reported from the Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith, **Arkansas**, where plants were found growing along a [drainage ditch](#) located just below a [spillway](#) for a small, recreational, fish stocked pond. All of the plants were [manually removed](#) and the site will be monitored for future occurrences (pers. comm. S. Hardcastle and J. Christensen, AR Air National Guard).

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