



**Management Measures for Widely
Spread Species (WSS) in Northern
Ireland**

**Parrot's feather
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)**

As per Article 19 requirement of EU Regulation 1143/2014
*on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of
invasive alien species*

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	
Description	Much-branched aquatic plant with finely pinnately-dissected whorls of leaves, which produces emergent shoot apices up to 13 cm high, usually glaucous or pale green because of abundant glands and bearing flowers.
NI Status	Established in many lakes and ponds across Northern Ireland. Occurs in eutrophic ponds, ditches, reservoirs, canals and flooded mineral workings; it occasionally also occurs in flowing waters.
Pathways	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> is popular in the aquatic nursery trade. Escapes from garden ponds and fragmentation of natural populations in flowing systems has led to establishment of new colonies; perhaps enhanced by recreational boating, angling or by deliberate transplantation.
Aim	To contain and, where possible, carry out eradications.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eradicate entirely in Northern Ireland. 2. Reduce the risk of spread and prevent re-invasion.
Prevention	
Border and pathway actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014, as well as under Article 15 (2) of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it is an offence to plant this species, or otherwise cause it to grow, in the wild. - Under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation it is also an offence to import into the EU, keep, grow or cultivate, transport (to, from or within the EU; except to facilitate eradication), place on the market, use or exchange this species - unless there are specific exemption or permit. - ID sheet developed and deployed to border staff – Border Force, Portal Inspectors (DAERA), Plant Health Inspectorate (DAERA/FS), etc. - Liaison with Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAWNI) to ensure species is not being traded.
Stakeholder communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness campaigns (Check/Clean/Dry and Be Plant Wise) to alert water users, gardeners and retailers to the threat the species poses. - Gardeners and land owners are permitted to keep plants of this species which are already growing on their land. They must act responsibly and not allow or encourage it to spread. Owners should consider safely removing and disposing of any listed plant by composting or burning in line with 'Be Plant Wise' campaign http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/



	- Traders are not permitted to purchase or sell this species.
Early detection and rapid response	
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new, dedicated surveillance mechanism is not necessary as a number of existing recording schemes allow reporting of this species: - In Northern Ireland species records are entered to CEDaR online recording via www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI or via the Invasive Species Ireland website - http://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting/. Entering a record generates an email to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Invasive Species Team. - The Botanical Society of the British Isles Map Scheme compiles comprehensive distribution maps for plants across the UK. Records are verified by Vice County Recorders. - The Biological Records Centre (www.brc.ac.uk) collects the presence records of all wildlife species in the UK through a network of voluntary recorders. The BRC provides the opportunity to download distribution data and visualise it as customisable maps, via the National Biodiversity Network Atlas Northern Ireland (https://northernireland.nbnatlas.org/). - Wildlife recording Apps are also available which allow users to report sightings of invasive plants. - Relevant Government agencies such as DfI Roads/Rivers, AFBI, Loughs Agency, Forest Service and NIEA record the presence of non-native invasive species when they are encountered as a part of their work. - Non-Governmental Organisations (e.g. Rivers and Fishery Trusts and Boards, Wildlife Trusts, etc.) undertake surveys of freshwater habitats and report incidental sightings of non-native invasive species. - All NI Councils to also record and report presence of non-native invasive species on their estates.
Rapid response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate a rapid eradication of Parrot's feather following a confirmed sighting when it is first discovered in a new catchment. - Once widespread, control is extremely difficult.
Long-term management	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanical control is effective for removing large infestations where access is possible. Methods such as raking, chaining, or using excavators with weed buckets that remove the root are more effective than cutting. Care should be taken to restrict the downstream movement of stem fragments as regrowth is rapid from these propagules and the stems of this species are especially brittle. Chemical control can be achieved with applications of glyphosate; regular treatment is necessary. - Recolonisation from original sources will often occur unless the source of material is eliminated.
Research	
	No known current research.
Photos: © GB Non-Native Species Secretariat 2018	



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