



# CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

*Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875*

## CAES SEMINAR SERIES

# “Invasive Aquatic Plants – The State of the State”

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**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT

Connecticut’s lakes and ponds are among the State’s most important natural resources. They provide wildlife habitat, drinking water, irrigation, hydroelectric power, scenic views, recreation, and highly desired waterfront real estate. Revenues associated with boating, fishing, and other purchases aid the State’s economy. Value-added real estate taxes provide working capital for towns. In recent decades, invasive aquatic plants have spread to Connecticut’s lakes and ponds severely threatening their water quality, ecosystems, and economic value. Since 2004, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program (CAES IAPP) has assessed the severity of this problem through detailed vegetation surveys of over 250 water bodies. We have documented over 100 native and 14 invasive plant species. Approximately two-thirds of the lakes and ponds contained one or more invasive species. Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), variable watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), and minor naiad (*Najas minor*) are the most frequently found invasive species. New arrivals to the State include hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), and Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*). Statewide control efforts rely on prevention, detection, and scientifically based management options. Our work has determined susceptible lakes based on water chemistry and tested novel control methods such as reduced risk herbicides, biological agents, and targeted water level drawdowns.