



Invasive Species Alert!

Biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources need your help!

After a decade of eradication efforts, invasive Water Chestnut still persists in some Maryland waterways.

If you see this plant, please report it to Mark Lewandowski at 410-260-8634 or email mlewandowski@dnr.state.md.us



- **Water Chestnut spreads quickly.**
- **The floating leaves form layers so thick that they impede navigation and any sort of recreational water use.**
- **Leaves block sunlight and eliminate Bay Grasses that grow on the bottom.**
- **It out-competes native plants and is not a good food source for native wildlife.**
- **Water Chestnut seeds have four half-inch spikes strong enough to penetrate your shoes.**

DNR biologists and volunteers will begin the summer 2010 Water Chestnut removal efforts in the Sassafas River on June 28th.

If you observe Water Chestnut in any Maryland waterway, there are several ways you can help us with this eradication effort. First, if there are only a few plants present and you're able to, pull them up by the roots and throw them on dry land to decompose. If you have a GPS, mark the coordinates and pass them on to your state biologists. If you have a camera, take some pictures and send them to us along with location information. Most importantly, never put any exotic aquarium species, plant or animal, in your local waterway – it's amazing how quickly they may be able to spread and out-compete our native plants and wildlife.

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Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
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Contact Mark Lewandowski for more information:
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