

WATER CHESTNUT

(Trapa natans)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Localized**



Water chestnut (Trapa natans)



Water chestnut nutlets
www.adkinvasives.com



A water chestnut infestation on the Seneca River

- Discovered in Oneida Lake in 1999
- Forms thick mats at the water's surface
- Produces a sharp nutlet

Water chestnut, an aquatic plant native to Europe and Asia, was introduced to New York State in the late 1800's. An established population of this plant was first observed in western Oneida Lake in a bay to the west of Interstate 81 near Brewerton, NY in 1999. The infestation was harvested mechanically from 2000-2002, but has also been controlled chemically with a herbicide (2004). Localized infestations, primarily in the western half of the lake, have been effectively controlled as of 2006 through private citizen hand-pulling efforts.



A boatful of volunteers help to eliminate local infestations of water chestnut on Oneida Lake

Water chestnut prefers slow-moving, muddy areas and may grow as long as 16 feet from the lake bottom to the water's surface. Its toothed, triangular leaves form rosettes at the water's surface making it very easy to identify. Plants produce sharp nutlets each year that sink to the lake's bottom making swimming hazardous.

Prepared by:

Kristen Holeck and Ed Mills
Cornell Biological Field Station

Edited June 2013