



## Elodea spp. (Tape-Grass Family)

Invasive Ranking 79/100



VATTENPEST. ELODEA CANADENSIS L. C. RICH.

C.A.M. Lindman Plate

There are two species of *Elodea*, common waterweed, that pose a potential threat to Alaska National Parks. Differentiating between the two is difficult as they often hybridize and pose an equal threat. *Elodea* is an invasive plant that can cause permanent negative impacts to aquatic habitats, which can degrade the quality of ecosystems throughout Alaska.

To date, *Elodea* has not been found in Katmai National Park and Preserve. In Alaska, *Elodea* has been found in a few sites including Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, Cordova, Fairbanks, and Juneau. *Elodea* has been documented in some south coastal sites, like Lake Hood, where many float planes that access Katmai National Park frequent from. This makes the potential for *Elodea* to spread to Katmai large.

The most effective form of exotic plant management is prevention. Float planes, kayaks, rafts, and any equipment that makes contact with fresh water should be cleaned and inspected after use.



aquariumbg.com



biolib.cz



Wikipedia

*Elodea* is an underwater perennial plant with long trailing stems and green semi-translucent leaves. It can reproduce, aggressively, from small severed fragments.

**Stem:** Long, slender, branched

**Flowers:** rarely flowers or seeds

**Leaves:** Usually arranged in whorls of 3, there can be anomalous whorls of more than 3, sometimes opposite on the lower portions of the stems. Leaves (6-15 mm long, 1.5-4 mm wide) are finely toothed along edges, evident only with magnification. Leaf tapered to blunt point.

**Habitat:** Lakes, ponds, ditches. Does not grow beyond 15-20 feet deep. Needs sunlight, can be found in shallow, clear water. Can grow in slow moving streams and rivers, but prefers non-moving water. Will not grow in extremely cold water, such as glacially fed lakes. Does not grow above the surface of the water.

*Individual plants vary in appearance depending on growing conditions.*

If you think you have found *Elodea* please contact Katmai National Park; document the location (GPS coordinates), note the habitat, water depth, and take pictures.