



## STATEWIDE ON iNATURALIST

Thank you for joining us for the MiCorps Aquatic Invasive Species Detection Blitz. During this week-long event, volunteers across the state used the iNaturalist app to photograph and report suspected aquatic invaders they spotted while boating, fishing, paddling, or walking Michigan's lakes, streams, and wetlands. The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is the state's volunteer water monitoring network, and this was our first AIS Detection Blitz. Your entries and photos gave us a practical baseline for future surveys. Together, we logged 110 verified sightings of 18 aquatic invasive species statewide, highlighting areas that can be watched more closely. See the full results here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2025-micorps-ais-detection-blitz-results>

### Snapshot of Results:

**110** verified AIS observations

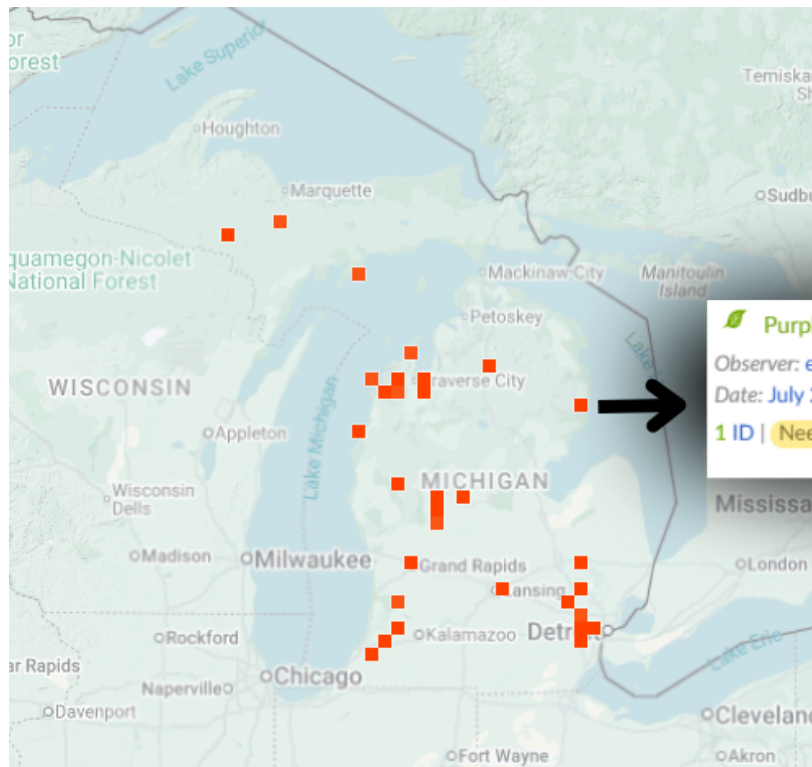
**42** total observers

**18** invasive species recorded

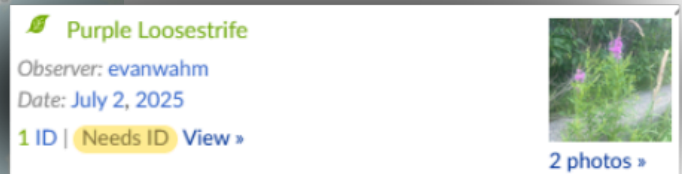
#### Most frequent species:

- Eurasian watermilfoil (33)
- Common reed (Phragmites) (14)
- Invasive cattail (13)
- Curly-leaf pondweed (11)
- Zebra mussel (10)

### Where Observations Came From:



Each square marks a location that resource managers can review for follow-up surveys or outreach.



Example of an iNaturalist submission to the project.



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### What We Noticed:

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- **27 of 110** Blitz observations (**25 %**) were photographed within 500 m (~ 0.3 miles) of a DNR-listed public boat-launch ramp.
- Plant observations outnumbered animals roughly four to one.
- All verified sightings will be shared with EGLE and the Michigan DNR to support statewide invasive-species tracking.

### Why Reports Like These Matter:

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Early detection is less costly and more effective than large-scale removal after an invader spreads. Your photos flag locations that may need rapid response from agencies or local partners.

### Interested in More Water Monitoring?

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MiCorps offers a host of volunteer monitoring options:

- **Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP)** volunteers can measure water quality, nutrients, shoreline health, and plant communities (including invasive species).
- **Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP)** volunteers track stream habitat and aquatic insects, which are important indicators of stream health.

Learn more at [micorps.net](https://micorps.net) or email [micorps@msu.edu](mailto:micorps@msu.edu) to find training dates or a local contact.

Thank you again for taking part in this first AIS Detection Blitz. Your time on the water and willingness to share what you saw made this effort possible. We look forward to building on these results next season and hope you will stay connected with MiCorps as we continue to monitor Michigan's waters together.