

Conservation Goals

Since 2009, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy has been successful in reducing the amount of water chestnuts found in Lake Delmont and Camp Hart Lake in the Musser Scout Reservation, as well as Knight Lake and Deep Creek in Green Lane County Park. This has been achieved through hand-pulling events with many volunteers. With the help of the community, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy hopes to bring the amount of water chestnut to a manageable level and prevent the spread of this invasive species to new areas.

About PWC

Founded in 1964 to combat pollution in the Perkiomen and its tributaries, today the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy helps ensure quality drinking water for hundreds of local communities.

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy's strategic focus is to educate and inspire, provide tools for action, and engage the 362 square-mile watershed community. Conserving and protecting land and water resources through a commitment to and leadership in conservation, award winning environmental education, and watershed stewardship, the Conservancy serves a vital role in the region.



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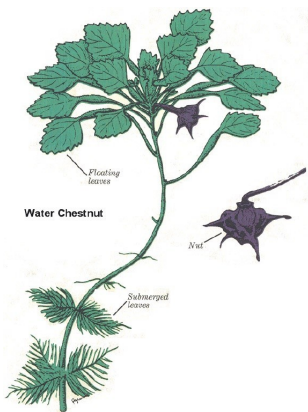
European Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)



**NON-NATIVE INVASIVE
SPECIES**

European Water Chestnut

The European water chestnut can be identified by its floating leaves that form a rosette. Each plant can have up to 20 rosettes stretching over the surface of the water. The plant also has feather-like leaves underwater. Further



down are the roots, which anchor the plant in the stream bed. The water chestnut blooms in July with a white flower where the large, pointed seed pod is produced.

Effects of Water Chestnut

The European water chestnut is an invasive species that outcompetes native plants for food and habitat. This occurs because the water chestnut is not native to our area and has no natural predators.

Dense mats of water chestnuts can spread over large areas, inhibiting recreational activities.

When boating, the plants may get caught on oars, making it difficult to travel through and possibly spreading the infestation. The sharp spines of the seed pods also pose a danger to swimmers.



If the water chestnuts continue to spread throughout our watershed, they could clog intakes for water treatment facilities, which could be expensive to fix.

Managing Infestations

Water chestnut populations are difficult to control because the plants grow quickly over a large area and the seeds can survive for up to 12 years. Additionally, broken pieces of the plants can form whole new plants.

Managing the water chestnut is very costly, and thousands of dollars from grants have already been put into this project.

In the past three years, management projects have been successful in reducing the growth of water chestnuts in our watershed. It is important to continue controlling water chestnut growth so past efforts do not go to waste!

How You Can Help!

One way to help stop the spread of water chestnut is to prevent the transportation of seed pods to new water bodies. When boating, avoid the plants so they do not break and form new plants. Be sure to remove any pieces of the plant or seed from boats and equipment.



Clean and dry all equipment before its next use, especially if entering different water bodies. If water chestnut plants or seeds are found, please contact the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.