

Indiana Aquatic Plants in Trade Working Group – Meeting 4

Executive Summary

September 5th, 2007

Indianapolis, IN

The fourth meeting of Indiana's Invasive Aquatic Plant Working Group started with a discussion on the definition of aquatic plant and what extent the definition covers wetland plants. The group came to an agreement to only include obligate wetland plants for our purposes. An overview of the water hyacinth code (18 USC Sec. 46) was next on the agenda. It appears the federal code does not get enforced for at least one reason: it is unclear who is responsible for enforcing it. Thus, water hyacinth will be run through the risk assessment model to determine how it should be listed. The group next did a brainstorming session on outreach/education strategies that would be most helpful for consumers and retailers.

The afternoon was spent discussing the listing-process model, in which some revisions were made, and considering hardiness zones. It was agreed by the group that Zone 7 would be the cut-off for running a species through the risk assessment model. In other words, species found in Zone 7 and North should be considered for their invasiveness. This is based on USDA's zone map, while acknowledging potential changes due to climate change. Lastly, the group discussed the alterations needed to the New Zealand Weed Risk Assessment to make it more Indiana-friendly.