

# Invasive Plants in Chautauqua Lake... Is eradication possible?

## Discovered by researchers in CL:

Curlyleaf pondweed	1937
Eurasian watermilfoil	1972
Brittle naiad	2003
Starry stonewort	2009
Water chestnut	2009

## Ecosystem-responsible control by:

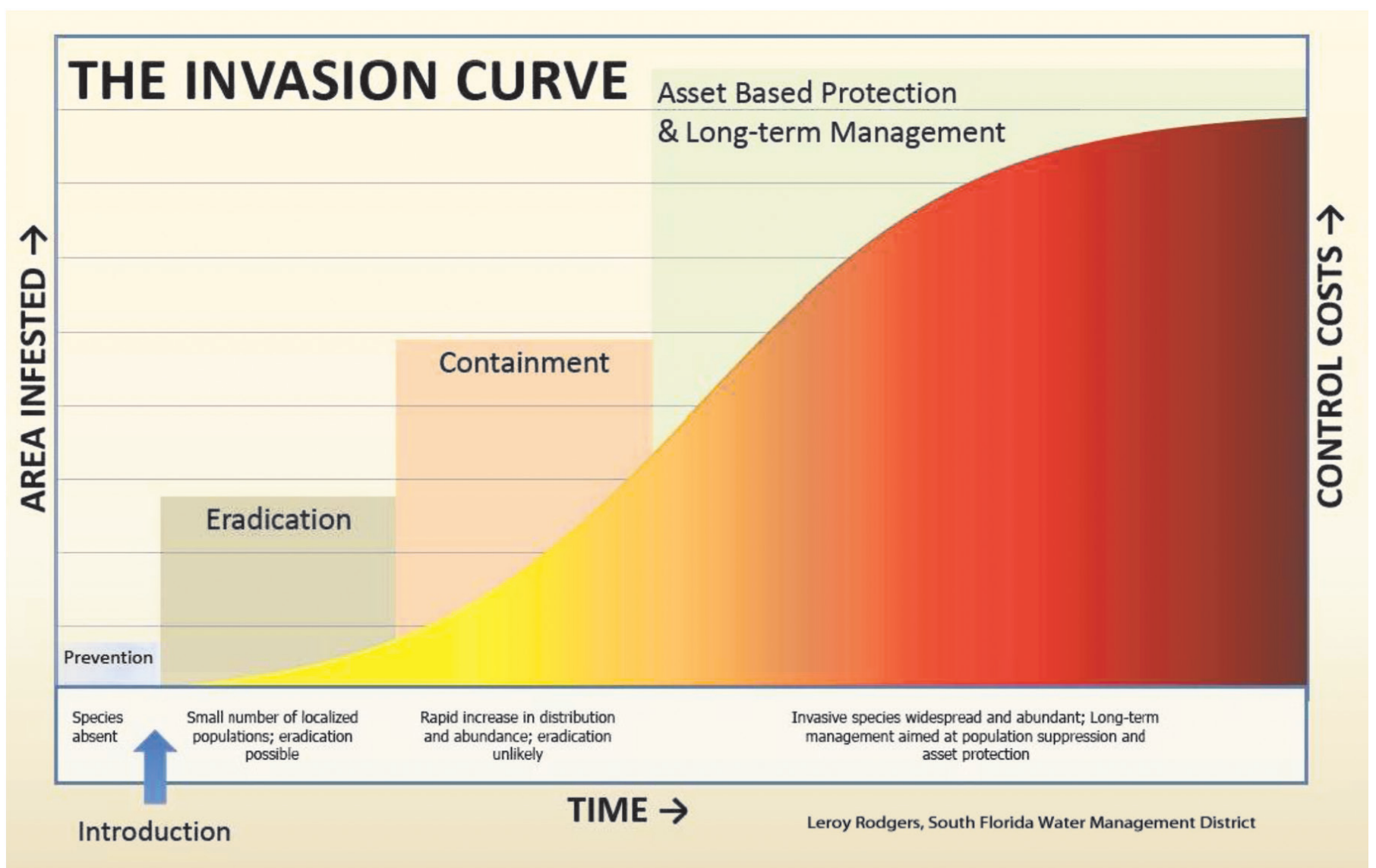
Harvesting
Harvesting and insects
Competition from other plants*
Competition from other plants*
Hand pulling

## Eradication possible:

No
No
Yes, non-selective herbicide may be needed.
No. Combination of hand pulling, diver-assisted suction harvesting, algaecide and mechanical harvesting recommended for containment.
Yes, with multi-year diligence.

\*Competition from other plants means that healthy, growing vegetation occupies space which will not be available for new invasives. Aquatic plant management actions should never result in widespread removal of all plant material. That creates openings for new invasives to establish and for existing invasives to spread.

**Once a new invasive species arrives, as time passes the area it occupies can expand and the cost to eradicate or manage it increases significantly.**



- **Long-established Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed are important to the Chautauqua Lake ecosystem.**
  - o They provide cover, food, and places to lay eggs for fish and other creatures. Chautauqua's world-class muskie fishery will dwindle without them.
  - o Furthermore, these plants are now wide-spread and are mixed with the lake's native plant species, making it impossible to selectively remove and eradicate them.
- **Brittle naiad, Starry stonewort and Water chestnut have all been discovered recently and currently occur in a small number of locations.**
  - o Eradication should be attempted for these species before they become unmanageable.
  - o If recommended by Western New York PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), targeted use of herbicide can be appropriate.
- **Other potentially harmful invasive plants, such as Hydrilla, are known to occur in several waterbodies located within driving distance from Chautauqua Lake.**
  - o Preventing their arrival on boats, fishing gear, or recreational equipment by carefully inspecting and cleaning such items before moving to a different lake is still the easiest and most cost-efficient way to stop the spread of invasive species.

**A lake that contains many species of plants and animals, is considered a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem. Healthy plant communities assist with water clarity and reducing harmful algal blooms.**

Part of protecting Chautauqua Lake means keeping its plant communities healthy, which support our world-class muskie fishery, along with the multiple migrating bird populations, like our ducks and tundra swans.

**Growing plants or harmful algal blooms?  
Which one will human visitors migrating to our lakes' shores want to choose?**



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