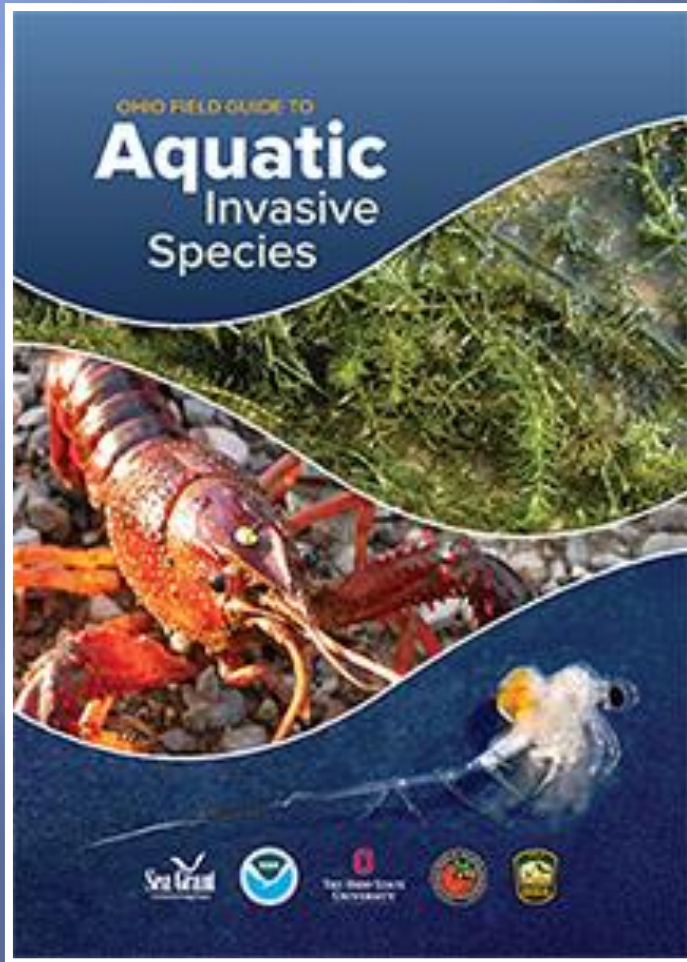


Ohio Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species



- Developed by
 1. ODNR, Division of Wildlife
 2. Ohio Sea Grant
 3. The Ohio State University
- Includes the Following:
 1. Plants
 2. Invertebrates
 3. Fish
- Developed as an early detection tool for aquatic invasive species

Species Accounts

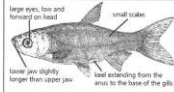
Silver Carp

Hypophthalmichthys molitrix



Species at a Glance

The silver carp is a member of the Asian carp complex, which also includes bighead, black, and grass carps. Its large size, voracious appetite, and ability to leap out of the water make it an enormous threat to the state's fisheries and recreational economies.



Identification

This very large filter feeder averages 40–70 cm (16–28 in) in length, but can reach up to 130 cm (51 in) and weigh up to 36 kg (80 lbs). Its deep body is **laterally compressed**, with a **ventral keel** that extends forward from the anus almost reaching the base of the gills. Large eyes are located low and forward on the head. The mouth is large and **terminal**, and the lower jaw is slightly longer than the upper jaw. No barbels are present on the mouth. The short **dorsal fin**, which lacks spines, contains 7–10 rays. Scales are very small. Coloration is olive to grayish-black on the back, with silvery sides blending to white below, and darker pigmentation on the fins.



Similar Species

While it most closely resembles the invasive bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), the silver carp is fairly uniform in color, whereas the bighead has irregular dark blotches on its back and sides. The bighead also has a less extensive keel, spanning from the **pelvic fin** to the **anal fin**. Silver carp may also resemble the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), which has barbels on either side of the mouth, and species of suckers (*Catostomidae*), which have thick lips containing small folds or nipple-like bumps. Small, juvenile silver carp also look superficially similar to native gizzard shad.

Habitat

The silver carp is an exclusively freshwater fish, preferring large river systems, lakes, or impoundments with flowing water needed for spawning. It can feed in temperatures as low as 2.5°C (36.5°F) and can withstand low levels of oxygen.

Spread

Once introduced to open waters, the silver carp readily spawns and disperses. Because juveniles resemble some common baitfish species, it may be unintentionally spread through the use of live bait. It can also spread in illegal shipments of live Asian carps, which is popular in the Asian food market.

Distribution

Native to eastern Asia, the silver carp was intentionally introduced into the United States to control algae in aquaculture ponds. During flooding in the early 1980s, it escaped into the Mississippi River and has since moved upstream towards the Great Lakes. In Ohio it can be found in the Ohio River drainage, and there are records from Adams, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, and Hamilton counties.

Environmental Impacts

The silver carp consumes vast amounts of plankton and **detritus** each day, competing with native filter feeders and juvenile fish for food. In addition, when startled by boat motors or other equipment, the silver carp can leap up to 3 m (10 ft) out of the water, posing a risk of injury to boaters and water-sport enthusiasts.

Ohio Distribution



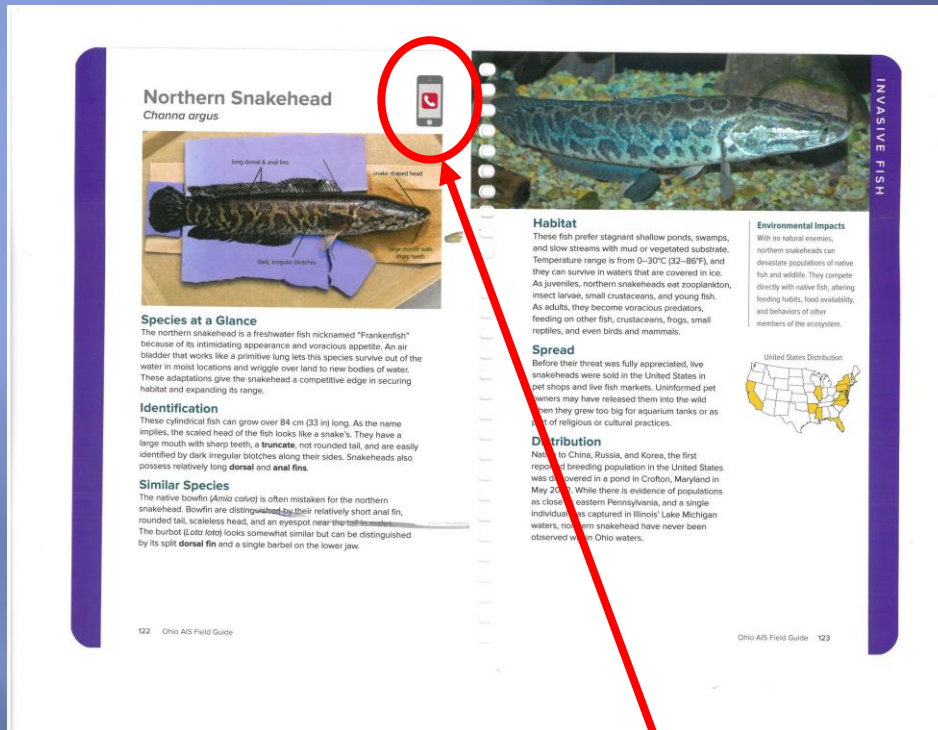
United States Distribution



INVASIVE FISH

- Species at a glance
- Identification
- Similar Species
- Habitat
- Spread
- Environmental Impacts
- Distribution in Ohio and Nationally

How to Use The Guide



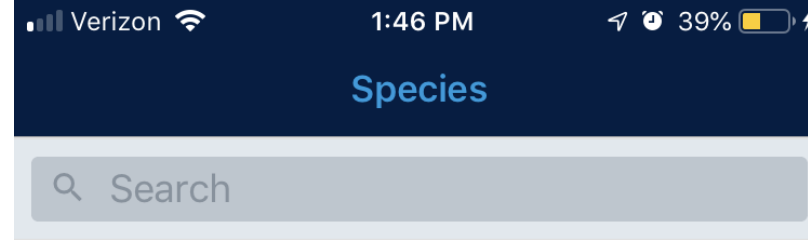
- Sent to People in the Field:
 1. ODNR Biologists and Law Enforcement
 2. Ohio EPA
 3. County SWCD's
 4. USFWS
 5. Universities
 6. Consultants
- Printed on waterproof paper and spiral bound (durability)
- Public version pending

- Phone Icon Indicates that you should report your find to the ODNR Division of Wildlife at <http://ohiodnr.gov/ais/reporting>

Pennsylvania Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Smart Phone app




SARA STAHLMAN, PENNSYLVANIA SEA GRANT





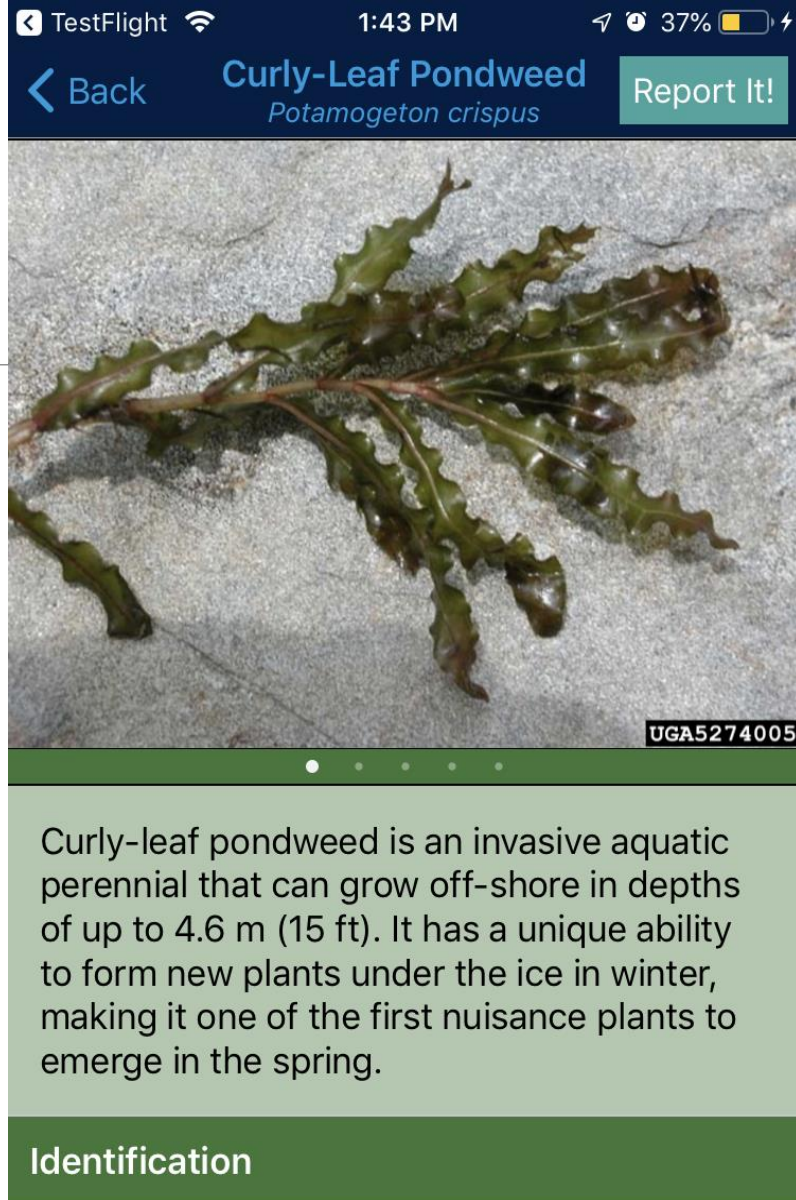
Filter by County ▼

Filter by Taxa ▼

	Asian Clam <i>Corbicula fluminea</i>	Invertebrates	>
	Brazilian Elodea <i>Egeria densa</i>	Aquatic plants	>
	Curly-Leaf Pondweed <i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Aquatic plants	>
	Eurasian watermilfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Aquatic plants	>
	European Frog-bit <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Aquatic plants	>

- Obligate plants
- Facultative plants
- Invertebrates
- Fish
- Reptiles
- Pathogens
- Algae





Leaves: Submerged, oblong, slightly translucent, olive-green to reddish-brown

- Species profiles:
 - Identification
 - Similar Species
 - Habitat
 - Spread
 - Distribution
 - Environmental Impact

Name

Enter your full name (required)

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Select a Species



Choose Severity



Body of Water

Name of the nearest body of water

Infestation Details



Report



- Report

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