

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station



Invasive Aquatic Plant Program's (CAES IAPP) GIS Work

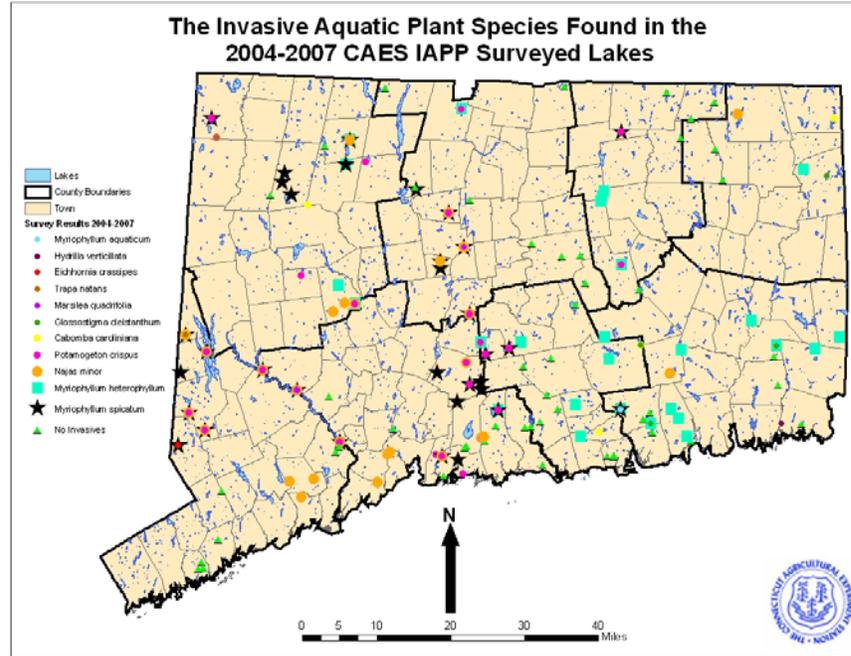


Roslyn Selsky using a GPS unit to record the location of a plant collection. Plant collections are used to confirm plant identification and are preserved for future reference.

CAES IAPP researchers use GPS to document the occurrence of invasive aquatic plants in Connecticut. GPS data includes point features of plant collection sites and quantitative sampling locations as well as polygon features of invasive aquatic plant populations. Geo-referenced data helps us monitor the spread of invasive aquatic plants by allowing us to return to the same sampling locations and get a precise measurement of the size of invasive aquatic plant population.



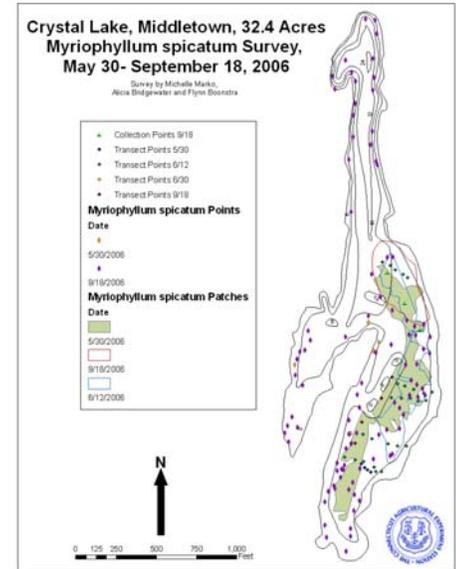
Greg Bugbee uses a GPS enabled video camera to find invasive aquatic plants in deep water. This tool is primarily used for locating invasives during management experiments.



The above map shows the locations of CAES IAPP surveyed lakes from 2004 to 2007 and the invasive aquatic plant species that were found in each lake.



Examples of CAES IAPP invasive aquatic plant survey maps. These maps are on our website www.ct.gov/caes.



This map depicts geo-referenced polygons of *Myriophyllum spicatum*, an invasive plant that can be managed with a native biological control agent.

GIS maps are made from data that is collected in the field. Each surveyed lake gets a map detailing the locations of each plant species found during the survey. These maps are displayed on our website www.ct.gov/caes, where you can click on each species to view exact locations. These maps have been used by lake-side residents, lake associations, non-profit groups, government officials and lake managers to determine the aquatic plant composition of lake communities and possible management strategies for invasive aquatic plants in Connecticut lakes and ponds. These maps also have been used by CAES IAPP researchers to investigate invasive aquatic plant management options, including a native biological control agent for the invasive *Myriophyllum spicatum*.

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