



Little
Traverse
Lake
Association

Promoting the protection and preservation of the lake and its watershed

44.9° north

AIS: Good, bad, what to do

Fresh Water Solutions, the contractor hired by LTLA to monitor aquatic invasive species (AIS), completed this summer 2021 survey. A copy of the report can be found here <http://nebula.wsimg>.

Invasive species can drive out native plants, spread diseases, and damage infrastructure. Once an AIS is established, it can be exceedingly difficult and expensive to eradicate. LTLA is committed to monitoring AIS in the lake and, when necessary, develop programs to eradicate incursions.

The surveyors look for several kinds of AIS. The most alarming is Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), a plant that forms thick mats in shallow areas, growing quickly to block sunlight killing off native plants that fish and other underwater species rely on for food and shelter. The matted

vegetation fouls propellers and makes even kayaking difficult. Other AIS species include purple loosestrife (PLS) and yellow flag iris (YFI), near-shore decorative plants that crowd out native species and change the hydrology of the lake.

The good news

- No Eurasian watermilfoil was identified in LTL.

The bad news

- The number of purple loosestrife colonies expanded from three in 2020 to 12 in 2021 – a fourfold increase.
- Twelve (12) colonies of yellow flag iris were discovered in 2021.

What can you do to fight AIS?

- LTLA installed a boat cleaning station at the township park to stop the transfer of AIS from lake-to-lake.

Use the station every time you put a boat, jet ski, kayak, canoe, or other watercraft into the lake. Urge your guests and neighbors to do the same.

- If you have an AIS colony on your lakefront, work with LTLA to eradicate the infestation and be vigilant about a recurrence.
- Support the LTLA and its efforts to monitor the lake for AIS, [build a reserve fund to combat Eurasian watermilfoil should it appear], and eradicate existing AIS colonies.
- The WQ/AIS Committee on LTLA is looking to coordinate teams of AIS hunters to track and eliminate AIS colonies. Watch for more information in the next few months and volunteer to watch your part of the lakeshore, and perhaps a neighbor's.



EWM has invaded Lake Leelanau.



Loosestrife and yellow flag iris have invaded Little Traverse Lake

