

# Native Aquatic Vegetation

Lake  
Gaston

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## BENEFITS OF NATIVE AQUATIC VEGETATION

Beneficial native species provide essential aquatic habitat, improve water quality, assist in shoreline and sediment stabilization, and provide competition for noxious species such as hydrilla and lyngbya.

## NATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES OF LAKE GASTON

**Emergent Species:** These species are found in shallow water along the shoreline and have leaves that extend upward out of the water's surface.

*Water Willow*

*Pickeral Weed*

*Spatterdock*

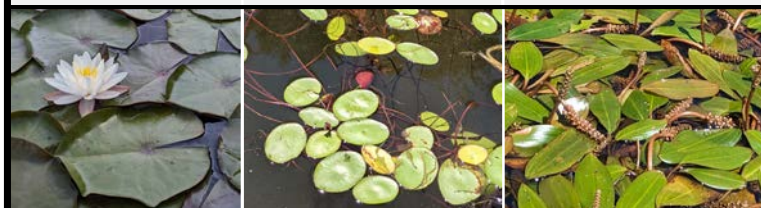


**Floating Leaf Species:** These species are typically rooted in the sediment but have floating leaves on the surface of the water.

*White Water Lily*

*Watersheid*

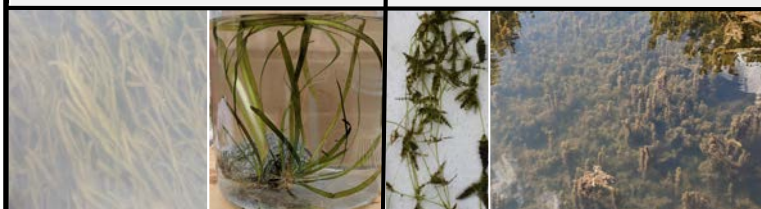
*Pondweed*



**Submersed Species:** These species are found in varying water depths, depending on light availability, and can occupy the entire the water column under the surface.

*Eel Grass*

*Chara*



## NATIVE VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM

Ever wonder what those cages are that you see around Lake Gaston? These cages and plants are part of a collaborative program between the Lake Gaston Association, NC State University, NC and VA Wildlife agencies, Lake Gaston Weed Control Council and others to establish native aquatic vegetation within Lake Gaston.

The cages are constructed to protect newly planted individuals from the herbivore pressure that comes from turtles, grass carp, and terrestrial species. The goal is for the plants to become robust enough within the cage that they will push out and expand outside the cages. Cages are visited on an annual basis to determine success levels and repair needs.

Plants used in this program include white water lily, spatterdock, watershield, and pondweed. All of these native species have expansion limitations based on water depths.



## MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE AQUATIC VEGETATION

- Management of natives is regulated by Dominion Energy's Shoreline Management Plan and is part of Dominion's FERC licensing agreement.
- Property owners are only allowed to manage native aquatic plants that obstruct a 10-ft wide navigational boat lane to a boathouse.
- Removal of Water Willow is not permitted.
- Herbicides may only be applied by licensed applicators.