



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Matthew Lindauer
Central Michigan Cisma Coordinator
989-414-2237
coordinator@cmcisma.org

The invasive plant, Flowering Rush, has been discovered in new locations along the Chippewa River and in the Tittabawasee River beyond the convergence of the two at The Tridge. July of 2022 was the first time that Flowering Rush was discovered in the county and all known sightings of the plant were pulled up at that time. A recently conducted survey indicated that the source is somewhere on the Chippewa and at this time, there are no known sightings in the Tittabawasee River before the convergence at The Tridge. Further surveys will be conducted to determine how far upriver the infestation starts.

The plant itself grows on the banks or in relatively shallow water and has long, slender leaves that resemble triangular blades of grass more than traditional, flat leaves. These leaves can grow up to six feet tall, although most sightings thus far have been two to three feet from root to tip. Some plants may have a tall, round stem with a cluster of light-pink or white flowers at the end, which start to become visible around early to mid July and as late as September. Currently, most observations have not had the flowering stem but those that did were already in the process of blooming.

Being that this is a fairly recent infestation, this course of actions falls into the “Early Detection, Rapid Response” category, making now the most crucial period of time for long-term success to be possible. Although the plant does not pose immediate health risks or physical hazards, it will spread rapidly, taking over nesting areas, impeding water access, and decreasing the biodiversity in the region that allows for a healthy ecosystem.

At this time, the Central Michigan Cisma is asking that users on any of the surrounding waterways keep their eyes peeled for this plant and that they report it via the MISIN smartphone app, or directly to the CM-CISMA. Please avoid disturbing the plant, as pieces of it may break off and wash downstream, potentially furthering the spread. More information about control efforts and volunteer opportunities will be posted to the CM-CISMA’s Facebook page.



Flowering Rush, in bloom



Flowering Rush on the banks, no flowers