

## 2026 Priority Species

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) undertakes an annual process to prioritize the aquatic invasive species that may be targeted for its research. Priority species are those that are in Minnesota or likely to be in the state or areas immediately adjacent, and that are likely to cause significant damage. The species are also those for which key uncertainties exist that impede understanding risks or developing effective prevention or management/control programs. Species prioritization is conducted by the 11-member, inter-organizational MAISRC Technical Committee, with input from the Center’s Advisory Board and the MAISRC Fellows Group. On a biennial basis, MAISRC systematically identifies research needs related to these high-priority aquatic invasive species to direct research efforts and investments toward the state’s greatest needs.

The MAISRC priority species list is intended to guide research in order to fill important knowledge gaps and drive the development of AIS solutions. It is not intended to be used for the prioritization of management efforts and/or regulatory response to invasive species. The list is intentionally limited to 40 high priority species to ensure MAISRC’s research program remains focused. **Species on the priority list are NOT in ranked order.**

### Priority Plant Species

**Brittle naiad** – *Najas minor*

**Cabomba** – *Cabomba caroliniana*

**Curly-leaf pondweed** – *Potamogeton crispus*

**Eurasian water milfoil, hybrid water milfoil** – *Myriophyllum spicatum*, *M.spicatum x sibiricum*

**European frog-bit** – *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*

**European haplotype (common reed)** – *Phragmites australis subsp. australis*

**Flowering rush** – *Butomus umbellatus*

**Hydrilla** – *Hydrilla verticillata*

**Narrow leaf cattail, hybrid cattail** – *T. angustifolia*, *Typha x glauca*

**Pale yellow iris** – *Iris pseudacorus*

**Purple loosestrife** – *Lythrum salicaria*

**Starry stonewort** – *Nitellopsis obtusa*

**Yellow floating-heart** – *Nymphoides peltata*

## Priority Fish Species

**Bighead carp, silver carp** – *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*

**Black carp** – *Mylopharyngodon piceus*

**Common carp/koi** – *Cyprinus carpio*

**Eastern mosquitofish, Western mosquitofish** –  
*Gambusia holbrooki*, *Gambusia affinis*

**Grass carp** – *Ctenopharyngodon idella*

**Goldfish/Prussian carp** – *Carassius auratus/gibelio*

**Common rudd** – *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*

**Northern snakehead** – *Channa argus*

**Round goby** – *Neogobius melanostomus*

**Ruffe** – *Gymnocephalus cernua*

**Sea lamprey** – *Petromyzon marinus*

## Priority Invertebrate Species

**Chinese mystery snail, Japanese mystery snail, banded mystery snail** – *Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*,  
*Cipangopaludina japonica*, *Viviparus georgianus*

**Faucet snail** – *Bithynia tentaculata*

**New Zealand mudsnail** – *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*

**Freshwater jellyfish** – *Craspedacusta sowerbii*

**Golden clam** – *Corbicula fluminea*

**Rusty crayfish** – *Faxonius rusticus*

**Signal crayfish** – *Pacifastacus leniusculus*

**Spiny water flea** – *Bythotrephes longimanus (cederstroemii)*

**Quagga mussel** – *Dreissena rostriformis*

**Zebra mussel** – *Dreissena polymorpha*

## Priority Harmful Microbes

**Asian fish tapeworm (AFT)** – *Schyzocotyle acheilognathi*

*Yersinia ruckeri*

**Bacterial kidney disease** – *Renibacterium salmoninarum*

**Chytrid fungus** – *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*

**Largemouth bass virus (LMBV)**

*Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*

**Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV)**