

Vermont Invasive Patrollers  
2008 Field Data Sheet - Instructions

Survey Instructions:

1. If possible, conduct surveys on a calm day with minimal boating activity.
2. For large waterbodies, a survey may be conducted on multiple days. In this case, fill out one section of the data sheet (see over) for each day.
3. Survey shore line out as deep as plants are growing (or as deep as you can see).
4. Pay particular attention to:
  - Boat access areas
  - Inlets and outlets
  - Shallow bays
  - Areas around flow-restriction structures such as dams
5. If you find a suspicious plant:
  - Mark the location on a map, noting any nearby landmarks. If a map for your waterbody is not available, draw a sketch.
  - Do not remove the entire plant from the water. Instead, measure several inches down the stem of the plant from the point closest to the surface. Carefully cut the plant, including any flowering portions if available. If the plant is collected in deep water using a rake, collect a representative sample of the plant, including any flower structures if available. Place the plant fragment in a zip-lock bag, and keep it out of direct sunlight. The fragment need not be floating in water. It just needs to be moist, cool, and protected from direct sunlight.
  - Place the bag in a cooler as soon as possible and refrigerate when you get home.
6. If you find a suspicious animal (such as zebra or quagga mussel, rusty crayfish, etc.):
  - Mark the location on a map, noting any nearby landmarks. If no map for your waterbody is available, draw a sketch.
  - For mussels, collect two or three animals in a zip-lock bag. Place in freezer upon return home. Alternatively, mussels can simply be removed from the bag and placed in a safe place where they can air dry. Call DEC to report the finding and await further instructions. Do not mail suspected zebra or quagga mussels without first consulting with DEC.
  - For rusty crayfish or exotic fish that are observed but not captured, note the location where the animal was observed on a map, noting any nearby landmarks. If no map for your waterbody is available, draw a sketch. Call DEC to report the finding as soon as possible.
  - For rusty crayfish or exotic fish that are trapped or captured, collect a representative animal and place in freezer as soon as possible (this will both euthanize and preserve the specimen). Call DEC to report the finding and await further instructions.
7. Fill out the reverse side of this form and mail it to DEC as soon as possible once survey is completed (see address below).
8. If sample(s) were collected:
  - Report the sighting to Vermont DEC as soon as possible. Call 802-241-3777.
  - Mail plant samples to Vermont DEC as follows:
    - Place sample in a zip-lock plastic bag with a moist paper towel.
    - Carefully fill out the provided sample submission form and affix it to the zip-lock plastic bag.
    - Mail to DEC Monday-Wednesday

Mail field data sheets and plant specimens to: Leslie J. Matthews VT DEC – Water Quality Division 103 S. Main St Bldg 10 Waterbury, VT 05671
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KEEP PLANT SPECIMENS IN REFRIGERATOR IF COLLECTED THURSDAY-SUNDAY.  
Plant samples will degrade if they sit over a weekend at room temperature.  
PLEASE MAIL PLANT SAMPLES MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY ONLY.

Vermont Invasive Patrollers  
Field Data Sheet – Data

Submitted by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Survey – Section 1**

(Use this section if surveying an entire waterbody in a single day. Use additional sections below if survey is conducted on multiple days).

Waterbody: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Conditions (sunny, partly cloudy, overcast): \_\_\_\_\_

Area surveyed (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Were any suspicious plants or animals observed? If yes, describe below and attach a map or sketch indicating location(s) and noting nearby landmarks.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check if specimen(s) submitted to Vermont DEC.

**Survey – Section 2 (for multiple day surveys)**

Waterbody: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Conditions (sunny, partly cloudy, overcast): \_\_\_\_\_

Area surveyed (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Were any suspicious plants or animals observed? If yes, describe below and attach a map or sketch indicating location(s) and noting nearby landmarks.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check if specimen(s) submitted to Vermont DEC.

**Survey – Section 3 (for multiple day surveys)**

Waterbody: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Conditions (sunny, partly cloudy, overcast): \_\_\_\_\_

Area surveyed (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Were any suspicious plants or animals observed? If yes, describe below and attach a map or sketch indicating location(s) and noting nearby landmarks.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check if specimen(s) submitted to Vermont DEC.