Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*)

**NATIVE TO:** South America (Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay)

**CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS:** Found in select counties in Southern Illinois.

**IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:** Submerged aquatic perennial up to 15 ft long. Whorled leaves of 3 to 8 leaves per node up to 1 in long and ¼ in wide; often curve downward. Finely toothed margins. The flowers bloom above the water surface and are white with three petals. Similarly, American Elodea (*Elodea Canadensis*) has leaves up to ½ in long usually in wholes of 3 leaves.

**IMPORTANCE:** Dense mats restrict water flow, trap sediment, and impede recreational use of waterways; also will reduce light and outcompete native plants.

**HABITAT:** Fresh water lakes, ponds, and slow moving streams.

**MANAGEMENT:** Small infestations can be shaded out using an opaque cloth, where water levels can be controlled – draining over winter and allowing sediments to freeze kills plants. Herbicides may be effective as well.