

QUICK FACTS

CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL



Aquaculture and aquarium animals can become invasive if introduced into Alberta's waters. Once released into the wild, this species can outcompete native species for food and habitat, clog water infrastructure and may serve as a host for parasites that impact human health.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of Chinese mystery snails:

- 1.** Always clean, drain, dry your gear (boat, trailer, angling equipment) when leaving the water.
- 2.** Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants or animals, dead or alive, into water bodies.
- 3.** If you see Chinese mystery snail, report it to the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline or use EDDMapS Alberta from your smartphone.
- 4.** Know the law! Chinese mystery snails are listed as a prohibited species under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*. It is illegal to sell, import, transport, or possess a prohibited species. Penalties can be up to \$100,000 and/or a year in prison.



CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL QUICK FACTS:

- Chinese mystery snails are freshwater snails native to eastern Asia and were likely introduced to North America through the pet trade industry as well as the aquaculture industry for culinary purposes.
- Chinese mystery snails have large (up to 6 cm), globular, brown to olive coloured shells with fine growth lines, distinct sutures, and a black outer lip surrounding a hard operculum (flap or “trapdoor” covering). The body is dark brown to cream with small yellow spots and long tentacles.
- The operculum of Chinese mystery snails acts as a “trapdoor”, which protects this species from predators, pollution, control treatments, and surviving exposure to air for up to 4 weeks.
- Adult snails are typically found on surfaces or partially buried under mud or silt, whereas juveniles are located in crevices and under rocks.
- Chinese mystery snails can reproduce as many as 169 fully developed juveniles per year.
- Chinese mystery snails are considered edible and could be sold in food markets despite it being an intermediate host to multiple parasites and diseases, which could impact human health.
- Chinese mystery snail infestations can impact the growth and abundance of native snail species, as well as clog water intake pipes and other submerged equipment.
- Control of Chinese mystery snail can be difficult once established. Methods for control or eradication by trained personnel include water draw down and chemical treatments. However, both methods have little to no success in eradication.
- Care must be taken when transporting recreational boats or gear as this snail can survive for several days without water and may attach to boat hulls, plants, and mud.
- Chinese mystery snail was confirmed in Alberta at Lake McGregor in October 2019. Other established populations can be found in southern Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Quebec, and British Columbia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:

1-855-336-BOAT (2628)



Alberta