Wrestling Water Hyacinth

Wrestling water hyacinth in waders in muddy water is not for amateurs, only professionals please.

This seemingly lush invasive species can be harvested into a viable eco friendly product.

Mr. John Montoya, Ag Ed Graduate Student, is currently working on "Large-Scale Composting System as a Means of Managing Water Hyacinth, *Eichhornia Crassipes,"* as his research project. The objective of this project is to determine if a large-scale demonstration compost operation could be used to destroy an invasive aquatic plant, water hyacinth, and its seeds, and produce a mature compost. Water hyacinth, harvested from Spring Lake in San Marcos, will be combined with other feed stocks (poultry litter, wood chips, and food waste) to produce a mature compost that will destroy the water hyacinth and its seeds. The results of the project will be presented to interested parties and will serve as an example of best management practices for other water bodies with water hyacinth problems. The project is being supported through a research grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

For more information on current sustainability projects such as this one please, contact the

Texas State University-San Marcos
Department of Agriculture at 512-245-2130.