


WATER HYACINTH

Invasive Species Alert!

IMPACTS OF WATER HYACINTH

Water Hyacinth spreads rapidly, using up nutrients and forming dense mats that block sunlight. This displaces and threatens native vegetation. Other negative impacts include:

-  **Blocks water flow**
Dense mats can slow water flow and block waterways.
-  **Reduces oxygen**
Dense mats block light needed by plants to grow. Reduced oxygen in the water harms fish and other aquatic species.
-  **Promotes Disease Vectors**
Water Hyacinth provides good breeding habitat for mosquitos and other possible disease carriers.
-  **Impacts Recreation**
Large mats can interfere with activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.



IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Green, thick, glossy, egg-shaped leaves
- ✓ Leaves float and form a rosette (circular arrangement)
- ✓ Flowers are on a spike that forms above the rosette of leaves
- ✓ Blue-violet petals with a yellow spot
- ✓ Fibrous, dark purple to black roots

REPORT

Report sightings of Water Lettuce through:
EDD MapS Ontario on-line or
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System  on the app

DO...

- ✓ dispose of aquarium and water garden plants in sealed garbage bags
- ✓ educate yourself regarding native and non-native plant species
- ✓ plant only native species on your property (local seed sources are best)
- ✓ encourage local nurseries to sell native plant species

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES



PICKERELWEED

Pontederia cordata

Pickerelweed has a head of tiny blue-purple flowers and heart-shaped leaves that stand up out of the water. The flowers bloom from summer to early fall and can last for several months.

WHITE WATER LILY

Nymphaea odorata

White Water Lilies have white-petaled flowers with a yellow center accompanied by floating, round, green leaves. The flowers bloom from summer to early fall, lasting 3 to 4 days.



BROADLEAF ARROWHEAD

Sagittaria latifolia

Broadleaf Arrowhead has a flower stalk supporting multiple white flowers with yellow centers and arrow-shaped, green leaves that emerge out of the water. The flowers bloom from mid-summer to early fall, lasting 1 to 3 months.



DON'T...

- ✗ plant store-bought aquatic plants in local watercourses or ponds that are not man-made
- ✗ release fish, plants or invertebrates from water gardens into local creeks, streams, lakes or ponds
- ✗ buy, sell, trade or give away Water Hyacinth