

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. Negative impacts include:



blocking water flow

Dense vegetation mats slow water flow and block waterways.

reducing oxygen



Dense mats block light needed by plants to grow. Reduced oxygen in the water harms fish and other aquatic species.

promoting disease vectors



Water Hyacinth provides good breeding habitat for mosquitos and other possible disease carriers.

impacting recreation



Large mats can interfere with boating, swimming and fishing.



IDENTIFICATION

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

REPORT



SCAN ME

Report sightings of Water Hyacinth on-line or through the **EDD MapS** app.

find • map • track



DO...

- ✓ clean, drain and dry your boat before leaving a waterbody.
- ✓ burn or 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-petalled flowers with a yellow center accompanied by floating, round, green leaves. The flowers bloom from summer to early fall, lasting three to four days each.



N. Nehring

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 one to three months.



DON'T...

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