

WATER LETTUCE

Invasive Species Alert!

IMPACTS OF WATER LETTUCE

Water Lettuce is highly prolific, using up nutrients and forming dense mats that threaten native vegetation. Negative impacts include:



blocking water flow

Dense vegetation mats slow water flow and block waterways.



blocking sunlight

Dense mats block sunlight, preventing the growth of native aquatic plants which produce oxygen.



harming fish communities

Decomposing plants remove oxygen from the water, disrupting fish behaviour or even killing fish.



impacting recreation

Large mats can interfere with boating, swimming and fishing.



IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Floating plants resemble a small head of lettuce.
- ✓ Thick, ridged, rounded, light-green leaves have short, white hairs.
- ✓ Many long, feathery roots hang below a rosette of leaves.
- ✓ Flowers are small and white/pale green.
- ✓ Large mats are connected by underwater runners, called stolons.

REPORT



SCAN ME

Report Water Lettuce sightings on-line or through the

EDDMapS 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.



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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 Lettuce.
- ✗ 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.