

# YELLOW FLOATING HEART

## Invasive Species Alert!

### IMPACTS OF YELLOW FLOATING HEART

Yellow Floating Heart was introduced as a water garden ornamental. It spreads rapidly, as it can reproduce from broken stems and seeds. Negative impacts include:



#### **blocking water flow**

Dense mats of floating leaves slow water flow and block waterways.



#### **promoting disease vectors**

Stagnant water provides breeding habitat for mosquitos.



#### **blocking sunlight**

The leaf canopy shades out native, oxygen-producing aquatic plants, replacing them in the ecosystem.



#### **harming fish communities**

Decomposing plants remove oxygen from the water, impacting fish and wildlife behaviour and communities.



#### **impacting recreation**

Large mats can interfere with boating, swimming and fishing.



### IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Aquatic plant rooted to the bottom by branched stems of 1 m or more.
- ✓ Each stem supports a cluster of floating leaves.
- ✓ Leaves are 3 to 10 cm wide and circular or heart shaped.
- ✓ Single flowers have five bright yellow petals with feathery edges.
- ✓ Found in slow-moving waters.

### REPORT



SCAN ME

Report Yellow Floating Heart 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 Yellow Floating Heart.
- ✗ 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.