



Wetlands not Weedlands

Information sheet

Protecting agriculture and the environment is everyone's business. Report any suspect declared plants to your nearest office of the Department of Agriculture and Food



The aquatic weeds presented in this infosheet are banned throughout Western Australia. However, the Department of Agriculture and Food has found several of them in cultivation, mostly around Perth, and salvinia and water hyacinth have been found as far afield as Kununurra and Albany.

These plants must not be kept or sold, and must not be imported. If you have any of these plants in a pond or aquarium, they must be destroyed.

Senegal tea, alligator weed and horsetails have also been found in cultivation. Alligator weed has been mistakenly cultivated as a leafy vegetable or herb. It has been confused with a similar looking plant known as mukunuwenna or ponnsnhsnni (Sri Lanka), ran den (Vietnam), tsurunoge ito (Japan), phak pet thai (Thailand), and kozhuppa or majriya (India). Alligator weed can grow in water, on the banks of water bodies,

or in gardens - it has even been found infesting lawns in eastern Australia.

Aquatic weeds all have the potential to block rivers and water ways, and they pose a serious threat to irrigation channels. All these weeds have the ability to spread rapidly forming a dense mat above or below the water. This mat stops light entering the water and depletes the water body of oxygen. Fish and other creatures will die and native plants will be shaded out.

Horsetails or scouring rushes (*Equisetum* spp.) are primitive relatives of ferns. Horsetails have deep, invasive rhizomes and have become serious weeds in other parts of the world. They grow in damp soil and are a threat to wetlands, water courses, irrigated pastures and horticulture. Horsetails are also toxic to livestock. All *Equisetum* spp. must be destroyed.

Aquarium and pond owners

Do not dispose of any plant from your aquarium or pond in or near any waterway or drain.

Apart from horsetail, all of these plants can be killed by being dried out on newspaper. When the plants are dead, bury them or dispose of them with other green waste if collected by your local Shire or council. Salvinia and water hyacinth can also be killed by composting. Horsetails are extremely difficult to kill. Seek advice on disposal from the Department of Agriculture and Food if you have any horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.) plants.

Aquatic weeds cost!

Apart from environmental damage they cause, aquatic weeds are extremely expensive to eradicate. It cost more than a quarter of a million dollars to eliminate hydrocotyl from Western Australia's Canning River. In Barren Box swamp near Griffith in NSW over \$1 million has been spent to eradicate a two year old infestation of alligator weed.

Prevention is the cheaper option! Report suspect plants.

How can you help? If you see any of these water plants, or others that appear to be spreading, note notify the nearest office of Department of Agriculture and Food (See the White Pages of the phone bBook).



Alligator weed
Alternanthera philoxeroides



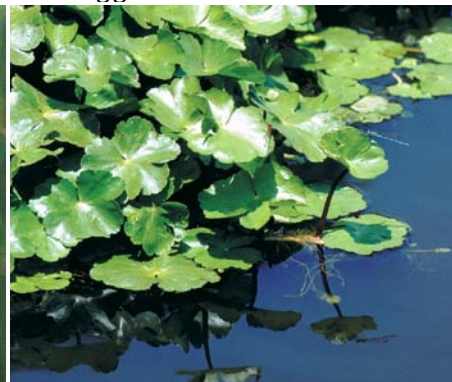
Arrowhead
Sagittaria montevidensis



Fanwort
Cabomba caroliniana



Horsetail
Equisetum sp.



Hydrocotyl
Hydrocotyle ranunculoides



Lagarosiphon
Lagarosiphon spp.



Leafy elodea or Dense waterweed
Egeria densa



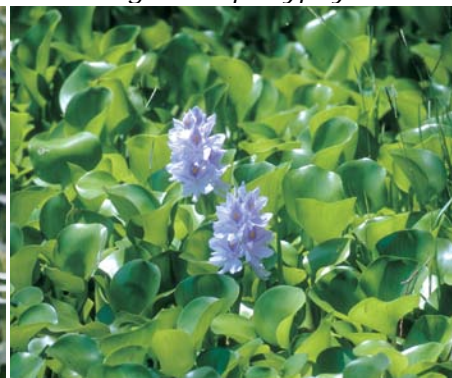
Sagittaria
Sagittaria platyphylla



Salvinia
Salvinia molesta



Senegal tea
Gymnocoronis spilanthoide



Water hyacinth
Eichhornia crassipes



Water lettuce
Pistia stratiotes

Submit suspect plant samples to: Pest and Disease Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food, 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth WA 6151

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