

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. Other negative impacts include:



Blocks water flow

Dense mats can slow water flow and block waterways.



Blocks Sunlight

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



Harms Fish Communities

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



Impacts Recreation

Large mats can interfere with activities such as 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

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 Lettuce