

Aquarium Caulerpa

Caulerpaceae - *Caulerpa taxifolia*



What does it look like?

Bright green seaweed with horizontal runners that reach up to nine metres. Runners give rise to many upright fronds. Fronds are flattened with a smooth and distinct mid rib, reaching up to 1 cm wide and up to 15 cm long (up to 60 cm in deep water). Pinnules (individual leaves) attach to mid-rib directly opposite one another.

Why is it a problem?

Caulerpa seaweed can quickly spread and smother other algae, seagrasses and invertebrate communities, thereby out-competing native species for food and light. This species also produces toxic compounds that are detrimental to other marine species.

Control methods

You must notify the Environment Southland or the Ministry for Primary Industries if you suspect the presence of this organism

You can help prevent the spread of marine pests by:

- Regularly cleaning your boat's hull – ideally keep fouling growth to no more than a light slime layer.
- Applying a thorough coating of antifouling paint and keep it in good condition.
- Ensure your hull is clean and free of fouling before you travel to a new area.
- Clean and dry any marine equipment (e.g. ropes, lines and pots) before using in a new area.
- Inspect areas on your boat that retain water for signs of marine life.
- Check for aquatic weeds tangled around anchors, trailers and other equipment.

[Request info](#)

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=MarinePest&Species=116>

[Report this Pest/Weed](#)

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=MarinePest&Species=116>

Notify Council

If you have seen or suspect the presence of Aquarium Caulerpa you must report the sighting to Environment Southland immediately.

Management programme

- Unwanted organism
- Notifiable organism