

# 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)

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### [Report this Pest/Weed](https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=MarinePest&Species=116)

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### 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