

Water hyacinth

Pontederiaceae - Eichhornia crassipes



What does it look like?

Water hyacinth is a free-floating aquatic plant. Distinctive swollen, bladder-like stalks, rosettes of thick, glossy, round leaves are heavy which allow the bladder to float. Mauve-blue flowers with a yellow spot are produced on a single flower stalk. Thick masses of feathery roots hang in the water.

The complete stalk (peduncle) bends underwater when fertilized to release many small, ribbed long living seeds that sink to the bottom sediments after the capsule decays.

Why is it a problem?

Dense mats of weed growth can reduce water flow impeding drainage.

Biodiversity threat - dense growth can shade out native submerged vegetation.

This weed grows rapidly, 25 plants can cover a 1-hectare mat in one season. Choking native vegetation and reducing native aquatic diversity. Water hyacinth can form dense mats that are tolerate of moderate frosts and their seeds remain viable for up to 20 years.

Control methods

Please contact us. Council will work with land owner/occupier on an eradication programme.

More information

Similar species: There are no known native plant species with a similar appearance.

Notify Council

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest please report the sighting to Gisborne District Council immediately.

Management programme

- Eradication
- National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)

Rules

- This pest species is a priority for Council's Biosecurity.
For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 23, under Related Links.
- No person will transport or have possession of this unwanted organism into or around the East Coast/Tairāwhiti Region.

What's council doing about this?

We will work with land owner/occupier to eradicate the pest plant with site inspections and control work on a 3-monthly cycle.

[Report this pest](https://www.gdc.govt.nz/council/contact-us)

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