

WEED OF THE MONTH

WANTED: SALVINIA

Have you seen Salvinia growing in your pond, dam or lagoon? *Salvinia molesta* is a free floating aquatic species that affects water quality and availability by creating a haven for mosquitoes.



Heavy weed cover over the water prevents airflow that normally occurs on an open water surface and displaces native plants, birds and animals.

Salvinia is native to South America and is commonly found in isolated water bodies. The weed is usually spread by people who empty aquariums or ponds into waterways.

Salvinia is a Weed of National Significance and is regarded

as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.

Salvinia reproduces only by vegetative means, such as its fragments, growing to large thick mats. The weed prefers warmer temperatures and when temperatures rise, Salvinia increases its growth.

Here are some tips to help you identify Salvinia:

- The leaves are small, spongy and green positioned in pairs along a common stem.
- The surface of each leaf is covered with long, stiff, water-repellent hairs.
- When the plant is mature the leaves become thick and fold at the mid-rib.
- The young leaves are oval and lie flat on the water surface.
- The root trails are from each pair of young leaves. As Salvinia matures, its long roots resemble wet hair.
- Trailing stems with small, hairy spore capsules may be found among the roots of mature plants.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Online

- www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/identify-specimens
- www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/biosecurity/plants

Please help us to target this invasive plant for early detection and eradication.

If you are unsure whether you have found Salvinia, or if you find another plant you want to be identified, send a sample to the Queensland Herbarium for identification. This is a free service, and instructions on how to collect and send a sample can be found at the Queensland Herbarium's website (listed above).

If your sample is Salvinia or another weed, contact Council's Biosecurity Services team for treatment or management plans.