

African oxygen weed

Lagarosiphon major

Description

This species is listed on the Federal Noxious Weed list and on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list.

Habit

Aquatic; perennial; submerged; growing in depths of up to 6 m (20 ft). Forms dense floating mats (up to 3 ft thick).

Leaves

Submersed, greatly recurved, stiff, alternate spirally along the stem, linear to linear-lanceolate, 16 mm (1 in) long by 2 mm (1/16 to 1/8 in) wide, 3-veined with visible midvein, margins minutely toothed at stem tips, leaves are very densely crowded.

Stems



Sparsely branched (every 10-12 nodes);
submerged; brittle; 3 mm (1/8 in) diameter;
growing up to 20 ft long.

Flowers

Tiny, 3 petals, clear-white in color, female flowers
reach surface on long thread-like tubes, male
flowers form in the leaf axils, free-floating.

Fruits and Seeds

Seed pod, beaked, seeds are 1/ in long, averaging 9 to a capsule.

Habitat

Native to South Africa. Found in freshwater lakes and slow-moving streams, prefers cool waters, high
light levels. Tolerates high or low nutrient conditions, high alkalinity and low CO₂ levels.

Reproduction

Vegetatively; spread by water currents and boats. Only female plants known outside native range.

Similar

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) have teeth on the margins and few teeth on underside midribs.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Strong aquatic herbicide, fluridone has been deemed most effective.

Credits

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and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Individual species images that

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