

# Giant salvinia

## Salvinia molesta

### Description

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

#### Habit

Free-floating, mat forming water fern; mats may be up to 0.9 m (3 ft) thick; Believed to be sterile in US.

#### Leaves

At each node is a pair of emergent or floating leaf-like green fronds and one brown feather-like frond handing below, resembling roots; densely packed into chains as they grow, covered with tiny hairs that split and then rejoin at their tips.

#### **Stems**

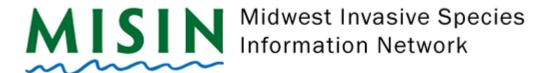
Delicate.

#### **Flowers**

Non-flowering.

### **Fruits and Seeds**





A nutlike sporocarp (a multicellular structure), trailing beneath.

#### **Habitat**

Native to Brazil. Found in lakes, ponds, ditches and slow moving waters; intolerant of brackish water.

### Reproduction

Vegetatively, dispersed by waterfowl, boats.

### **Similar**

Water spangles (Salvinia minima).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling, followed by plants being dried or burnt and disposed of.

#### **Credits**

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