

## 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 hanging 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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