

Anchored water hyacinth

Eichhornia azurea

Description

Introduced to the United States as an ornamental in 1884.

Habit

Rooted perennial aquatic plant.

Leaves

Alternate along the stem. Submersed leaves are sessile while emerged leaves are petiolate. The petiole is never inflated.

Stems

Erect

Flowers

Held on erect stems above the water surface. Can be from 7 to as many as 50 flowers per stem. Each flower blooms for 1 day and occurs from summer through fall.

Fruits and Seeds

each flower can produce 10-13 small winged seeds.





Habitat

Native to Central and South America. Found in freshwater lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes and ditches.

Reproduction

By seed or vegetatively.

Similar

American spongeplant (*Limnobium spongia*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Small populations can be hand pulled before flowering and seed-set. Aquatic herbicides can provide temporary control in small scales. *Neochetina eichhorniae*, *N. bruchi* (weevils), and *Niphograpta albiguttalis* (moth larvae) have been used in tropical and subtropical populations.

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