

## Heartshape false pickerelweed

### *Monochoria vaginalis*

#### Description

This species is listed on the USDA Federal Noxious Weed List.

#### Habit

Aquatic herbaceous plant that is fleshy, tufted, annual or perennial herb with glabrous, shiny appearance and a short rhizome.

#### Leaves

Younger plants have leaves that are 2-12.5 cm. long and 0.5-10 cm. wide. Older plants have leaves that float, linear or lanceolate in shape. Even older plants have ovate-oblong to broadly ovate, sharply acuminate with a heart-shaped or rounded base, shiny, deep green in color with longitudinal veins.

#### Stems

Glabrous, shiny.

#### Flowers

Few to numerous, in racemes, 0.79-1.6 in. long





and usually bear 2-8 flowers that are violet or lilac in color.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Ellipsoid, 3-valved capsules, 0.4 in. long, 8-12 longitudinal ribs.

### **Habitat**

Native to Asia. Found in swamps, marshes, open wet areas, ditches, and all types of inundated rice.

### **Reproduction**

Reproduces mainly from seed with occasional new growth from tubers.

### **Similar**

Arrowleaf falsepickerelweed (*Monochoria hastata*), Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling is effective in controlling this plant but requires persistence. The use of the aquatic fern *Azolla* has been shown to control this species in the Philippines. Can be controlled using Butachlor but requires a full dose of the herbicide.

### **Credits**

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