

Water lettuce

Pistia stratiotes

Description

Best surveyed in summer and fall, can be identified throughout the growing season.

Habit

Free floating aquatic plant; forms a rosette; feathery roots extend up to 80cm (32 in) below water surface.

Leaves

Thick and ridged, dull light green in color, short velvety hairs.

Stems

Stemless.

Flowers

Inconspicuous flowers on stalk in center of rosette; cluster of male flowers about and single female flower below.



Fruits and Seeds

Fruit is a green berry.

Habitat

Found in ponds, lakes, ditches, slow-moving or still water.

Reproduction

Vegetatively or by seed; daughter plants form on stolons. Typically introduced via water gardens; may also be spread by boats and trailers.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling for small infestations; mechanical chopping/harvesting.

Credits

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