



# **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**

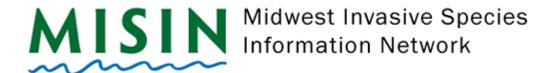
Inconspicuous flowers on stalk in center of rosette; cluster of male flowers about and single female flower below.

#### 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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