

African oxygen weed

Lagarosiphon major

Description

This species is listed on the Federal Noxious Weed list and on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list.

Habit

Aquatic; perennial; submerged; growing in depths of up to 6 m (20 ft). Forms dense floating mats (up to 3 ft thick).

Leaves

Submersed, greatly recurved, stiff, alternate spirally along the stem, linear to linear-lanceolate, 16 mm (1 in) long by 2 mm (1/16 to 1/8 in) wide, 3-veined with visible midvein, margins minutely toothed at stem tips, leaves are very densely crowded.

Stems



Sparsely branched (every 10-12 nodes); submerged; brittle; 3 mm (1/8 in) diameter; growing up to 20 ft long.

Flowers

Tiny, 3 petals, clear-white in color, female flowers reach surface on long thread-like tubes, male flowers form in the leaf axils, free-floating.

Fruits and Seeds

Seed pod, beaked, seeds are 1/ in long, averaging 9 to a capsule.

Habitat

Native to South Africa. Found in freshwater lakes and slow-moving streams, prefers cool waters, high light levels. Tolerates high or low nutrient conditions, high alkalinity and low CO₂ levels.

Reproduction

Vegetatively; spread by water currents and boats. Only female plants known outside native range.

Similar

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) have teeth on the margins and few teeth on underside midribs.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Strong aquatic herbicide, fluridone has been deemed most effective.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Individual species images that

appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).