

Giant salvinia

Salvinia molesta

Description

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

Habit

Free-floating, mat forming water fern; mats may be up to 0.9 m (3 ft) thick; Believed to be sterile in US.

Leaves

At each node is a pair of emergent or floating leaf-like green fronds and one brown feather-like frond hanging below, resembling roots; densely packed into chains as they grow, covered with tiny hairs that split and then rejoin at their tips.

Stems

Delicate.





Flowers

Non-flowering.

Fruits and Seeds

A nutlike sporocarp (a multicellular structure), trailing beneath.

Habitat

Native to Brazil. Found in lakes, ponds, ditches and slow moving waters; intolerant of brackish water.

Reproduction

Vegetatively, dispersed by waterfowl, boats.

Similar

Water spangles (*Salvinia minima*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling, followed by plants being dried or burnt and disposed of.

Credits

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