

Water chestnut

Trapa natans

Description

This species is listed on the Michigan prohibited aquatic plant list. The toothed, triangular leaf with inflated petioles is distinctive throughout the growing season.

Habit

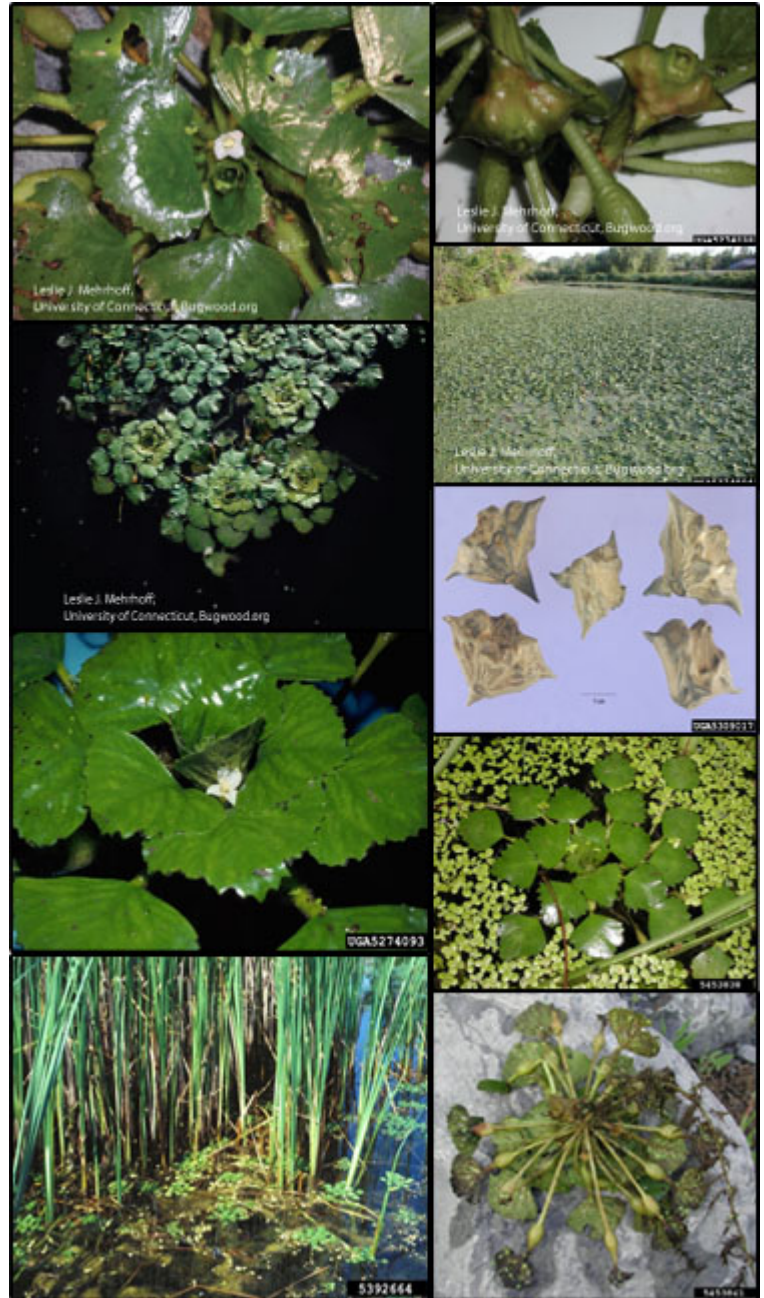
Aquatic; rooted; floating; mat-forming annual in shallow or deep freshwater; grows in depths of up to 4.6 m (15 ft).

Leaves

Toothed floating leaves have inflated petioles and are arranged in a rosette, while its submerged leaves are feathery.

Stems

Cord-like; spongy; buoyant; can reach lengths up to 16 ft; anchored to the bed of the waterbody by





branched roots.

Flowers

Small, white in color, 4 petals; bloom from July to first frost.

Fruits and Seeds

Spiny nut appears where flowers were. 2-4 1.3 cm (1/2 in) long, sharp, barbed spines.

Habitat

Native to Europe and Asia. Found in freshwater lakes, ponds, canals, and slow waters.

Reproduction

By floating rosettes and its single-seeded spiny nut, which attaches to boats or animals. The spines can pierce shoes.

Similar

Singhara chestnut (*Trapa bispinosa*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Complete removal of plants is imperative. Eradication is difficult because seeds may lay dormant for up to 12 years.

Credits

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