

Feathered mosquito fern

Azolla pinnata

Description

Can quickly spread to cover open areas of water. Forms dense mats that impede water flow and navigation, and clog irrigation pumps. Mats also reduce oxygen levels and the amount of light available to other aquatic organisms.

Habit

Small fern with a triangular frond that measures up to 1 inch in length and floats on the water.

Leaves

The frond is made up of many rounded or angular overlapping leaves each 0.08 in long. Green, blue-green or dark red in color and coated with tiny hairs, giving them a velvety appearance. The hairs make the top surface of the leaf water-repellent, allowing the plant to float.

Stems

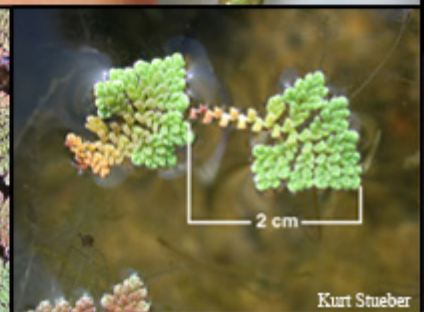
Flowers



Phylobotany.blogspot.com



Eyeweed, Flickr



Kurt Stueber



Fruits and Seeds

A small fruit capsule appears and can contain up to 64 small spores.

Habitat

Native to Africa and Madagascar, India, Southeast Asia, China and Japan, Malaya and the Philippines, the New Guinea mainland and Australia. Found on moist soil in and around rivers, ditches, and ponds.

Reproduction

Generally reproduces vegetatively, and by spores. Capable of doubling its biomass in 5-10 days.

Similar

Other species of *Azolla* spp.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

There has been success in controlling *Azolla* with the use of weevils.

Credits

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