

Asian marshweed

Limnophila sessiliflora

Description

Native to India, Ceylon and the Philippines. It is believed to have been introduced to the United States as an aquarium plant and was first noted in Lake Seminole (Florida/Georgia) in 1965.

Habit

Herbaceous aquatic perennial.

Leaves

Above water the leaves are dark green, more-or-less lance-shaped; in whorls of 5-8 leaves around the stem. Margins appear to be torn irregularly. Submersed leaves are finely divided and feathery, segments opposite.

Stems

Grows to 12 feet, with several inches erectly emersed.

Flowers

Small and solitary in leaf axils in the uppermost parts of the stems, above water. Five fused



petals are 5-10 mm long, and are blue, violet, pink or lavender in color with an upper lip that is white or pink.

Fruits and Seeds

Forms capsules, ellipsoid in shape containing up to 150 seeds.

Habitat

Native to Asia. Found in freshwater lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes, and slow-flowing streams and rivers.

Reproduction

By seed or vegetatively from stem fragments.

Similar

Can be confused with other submerged aquatic plants such as other fanworts.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Removal by hand or machine is recommended for small infestations. Plants can regrow from stem fragments. Aquatic herbicides can provide temporary control of small infestations. 2,4-D has been shown to be effective.

Credits

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