

Hawaii arrowhead

Sagittaria sagittifolia

Description

Currently listed on the Federal Noxious Weed list.

Habit

Herbaceous perennial or rarely annual aquatic herb. Monoecious or sometimes dioecious, it may be anchored beneath the water. Can grow 30-90 cm tall, erect, stoloniferous with milky juice.

Leaves

3 types produced with longer ribbon-like green leaves growing under the surface of water, distinctive arrow-shaped leaves held above water on triangular stalks, and intermediate floating leaves.

Stems

Smooth and square or triangular shaped.

Flowers





3 petals with 3 outer sepals. Petals are large and white in color, with a purple blotch at their base. They grow on a distinct stem that rises up from the root of the plant, with between 2-10 whirls of 3 flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

Round seed head is a mass of flat achenes. Achenes are 2 mm by 1 mm, enclosed in a wide winged sheath that is 6 mm by 4 mm. Seeds are brown in color, obovate with a thick rim.

Habitat

Native to Europe and Asia. Found in freshwater or brackish waters. Prefers shallow waters.

Reproduction

Vegetatively through stolons and by seed.

Similar

Other arrowhead species, specifically the Broad-leaved arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull small infestations. Aquatic approved herbicides may be useful but a permit is required.

Credits

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