

Heartshape false pickerelweed

Monochoria vaginalis

Description

This species is listed on the USDA Federal Noxious Weed List.

Habit

Aquatic herbaceous plant that is fleshy, tufted, annual or perennial herb with glabrous, shiny appearance and a short rhizome.

Leaves

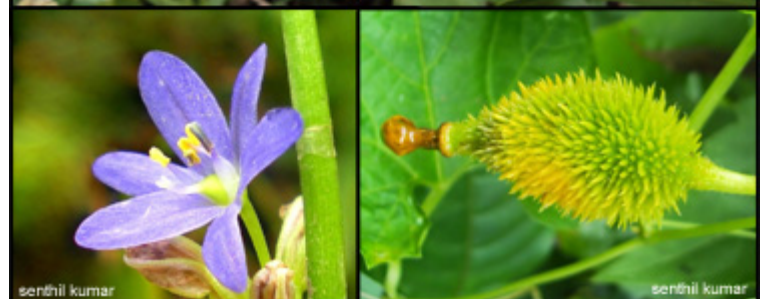
Younger plants have leaves that are 2-12.5 cm. long and 0.5-10 cm. wide. Older plants have leaves that float, linear or lanceolate in shape. Even older plants have ovate-oblong to broadly ovate, sharply acuminate with a heart-shaped or rounded base, shiny, deep green in color with longitudinal veins.

Stems

Glabrous, shiny.

Flowers

Few to numerous, in racemes, 0.79-1.6 in. long





and usually bear 2-8 flowers that are violet or lilac in color.

Fruits and Seeds

Ellipsoid, 3-valved capsules, 0.4 in. long, 8-12 longitudinal ribs.

Habitat

Native to Asia. Found in swamps, marshes, open wet areas, ditches, and all types of inundated rice.

Reproduction

Reproduces mainly from seed with occasional new growth from tubers.

Similar

Arrowleaf falsepickerelweed (*Monochoria hastata*), Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling is effective in controlling this plant but requires persistence. The use of the aquatic fern *Azolla* has been shown to control this species in the Philippines. Can be controlled using Butachlor but requires a full dose of the herbicide.

Credits

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