

American white waterlily

Nymphaea odorata

Description

Native to most of the United States but can be weedy or invasive in some areas. Considered a noxious weed in the western part of the country.

Habit

Rooted, aquatic perennial herb with large floating flowers and leaves.

Leaves

Round, narrowly cut almost to center, 8-10 inches across, bright green in color on top, reddish or purple in color below.

Stems

Unbranched, bearing a single floating flower at its' apex. Resemble leaf petioles.

Flowers

3-6 inches wide, white or pink in color, round, 4



greenish white sepals, 20-30 petals that are elliptic-lanceolate and curve slightly upward.

Bloom summer and early fall lasting only 3-4 days. Very fragrant.

Fruits and Seeds

Stalk contracts and forms a rounded fruit with several seeds that mature underwater and floating to the surface when ripe.

Habitat

Native to most of the United States. Can be found in lakes, ponds and streams

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively by rhizomes.

Similar

White water lily (*Nymphaea tuberosa*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Small populations can be dug up or hand pulled making sure to remove all root and stem fragments. For larger infestations, removal of leaves and cutting the top of the stems can be effective if repeated annually for 2-3 years. Can be controlled using aquatic herbicides.

Credits

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