

WANTED

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)



Description

Water hyacinth is a floating water plant. In cool areas, the leaves die off during frosts, but the crowns survive and regrow the following spring.

Leaves are bright green, sometimes rusty yellow on their edges, glossy, smooth, hairless and have obvious veins. Leaf shape changes depending on the density of infestations. In open water leaves are up to 30 cm in diameter, curved upwards with wavy edges and on hollow vase-shaped floating leaf stalks up to 50 cm long. In dense crowded infestations leaves are narrower and upright, up to 60 cm long including the stalk and on thin stalks.

Flowers are light bluish-purple or dark blue with 6 distinct petals, the upper petal is darker purple with a yellow mark in the centre. The flowers are 4-7 cm long and 4-6 cm wide, funnel-shaped on upright stems with between 3 and 35 flowers on each spike and produced from mid to late summer and only open for one or two days before withering.

Fruits are a capsule containing up to 300 seeds 10-15 mm long. When all the flower stems have withered, the stem bends into the water. The fruit capsule then matures under water.

Seeds are 1-1.5 mm long, roughly egg-shaped with ridges from the end to end and viable for up to 20 years.

There are 2 types of stems, erect stems up to 60 cm long with flowers and horizontal vegetative stems 10 cm long, which produce new daughter plants.

Roots are fibrous, featherlike, black to purple and up to 1 m long in deep water, trailing below the plant anchored in mud or sediment in shallow water.

Goal

To Eradicate from the Shoalhaven.

Whereabouts

Last seen North Nowra and Cambewarra. Found in watercourses.

Website Link [NSW WeedWise](#)

Native Look-alike