

INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS









Aquatic plants - both alien and indigenous, but excluding algae - which cause problems in aquatic systems in South Africa, as well as the most dreaded water weeds not yet in the country

Working for Water

1

Prohibited alien invasive aquatic plants

The species in this section have all been declared Category 1 Plants (CARA - Act No. 43 of 1983). They are therefore prohibited, they may not be planted, propagated, traded, transported or be allowed to disperse.

<p>• Water hyacinth / waterhiasint <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> Origin: Tropical South America</p>      <p>(November – April)</p>	<p>• Water lettuce / waterslaai <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> Origin: South America</p>     	<p>• Salvinia, Kariba weed / watervaring <i>Salvinia molesta</i> Origin: South America</p>    	<p>• Red water fern / rooiwatervaring <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> Origin: South America</p>    
<p>• Parrot's feather / waterduisendblaar <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> Origin: South America</p>    	<p>• Spiked water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> Origin: Europe, Asia, North Africa</p>    	<p>• Dense water weed / waterpes <i>Egeria densa</i> Origin: South America</p>    	<p>• Canadian water weed / Kanadese waterpes <i>Elodea canadensis</i> Origin: temperate North America</p>    









2

Legally regulated alien invasive plants

<p>• Pickereel weed / jongsnoekkruid <i>Pontederia cordata</i> Origin: North, Central & South America</p>    	<p>• Watercress / bronkors <i>Nasturtium officinale</i> Origin: Europe</p>    
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Problematic indigenous aquatic plants

<p>• Curled pondweed / krulblaarfonteinkruid <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> Origin: South Africa</p>    	<p>• Duckweeds / damsvyk <i>Lemna spp., Spirodela spp., Wolffia spp.</i> Origin: South Africa</p>    
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Dangerous alien invasive aquatic plants, not yet here, and NOT to be allowed into South Africa

<p>• Alligator weed <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> Origin: South America</p>    	<p>• Fanwort <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> Origin: temperate and subtropical America</p>    
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Aquatic weeds - a water quality issue!

Runoff water from human habitation and agricultural land is eutrophic (rich in plant nutrients), creating the ideal conditions for undesirable aquatic plants to flourish. A water system once cleared of aquatic weeds will inevitably be overrun by a fresh wave of aquatic invaders unless the water quality is properly managed at the same time.

Aquatic weeds cause problems

Aquatic weeds pose significant environmental, economic and social problems. Floating aquatic weeds form dense mats which:

- keeps sunlight out, thus destroying the aquatic biodiversity;
- de-oxygenates the water at night and when decaying, affect its smell and taste;
- blocks canals, pumps and turbines and increase siltation, thus aggravating floods;
- restricts access for fishing, river transport and recreation;
- increases water loss by evapo-transpiration;
- causes cattle to drown;
- provides breeding sites for disease vectors such as mosquitoes and snails.









Getting help

• Read about the weed species and their control in the book *Invasive aquatic plants* by Lesley Henderson and Carina J Cilliers. Order this book through internet at www.arc-ppri.agric.za, or phone ARC-PPRI (book sales) at (012)808 8222.

• Contact ARC-PPRI at (012) 356 9850 e-mail: OberholzerH@arc.agric.za. Dial the Working for Water Programme's toll free line for information or assistance on invasive plant control: 0800 005 376.



Explanation of symbols

<p>Means of propagation and dispersal</p> <p> Sexually, through seeds or spores (Flowering time)</p> <p> Vegetatively, by budding (growing daughter plants on stolons) or detached plant fragments</p>	<p>Legislation</p> <p> Category 1 plant: prohibited</p> <p> Category 2 plant: controlled cultivation permitted</p> <p> Category 3 plant: no further trade or planting</p>
<p>Control options (in order of preference)</p> <p> Effective biological control agents available</p> <p> Physical removal</p> <p> Registered herbicides available</p>	



Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development
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Patron in Chief:
Nelson Mandela

