

WATER HYACINTH

(*Eichhornia crassipes*)

THIS PLANT IS A WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Water hyacinth is a floating aquatic or water-based weed that can grow rapidly and smother the surface of waterways and dams. It is a major threat to Camden's local environment, agricultural areas, and waterways including the Nepean River.

Water hyacinth reduces water quality by lowering oxygen levels and causing changes in water temperature and pH levels. It can restrict water movement and livestock access to water as well as block waterways. It prevents native aquatic plants from growing, causing loss of habitat and food sources for aquatic animals and restricts their movement.

KEY FEATURES:

- Leaves are bright green, glossy, smooth and hairless with obvious veins;
- In dense infestations, leaves can be narrow and upright and up to 60cm long;
- In less dense infestations, leaves can be rounded and up to 30cm in diameter,
- Flowers are light bluish-purple or dark blue funnel shaped with six petals, and
- Seeds are produced in a capsule and be viable for up to 20 years.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

- Seeds can be moved to new locations by water flows or from mud stuck to birds, machinery and footwear;
- Produces daughter plants that can be spread by water currents and flooding; and
- Can escape from garden plantings.

Successful treatment of water hyacinth requires timely follow up to control regrowth. It is recommended you seek expert advice from Camden Council's Biosecurity Officer on 13 22 63 or by emailing mail@camden.nsw.gov.au.

For more information visit weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/waterhyacinth

Department of
Primary Industries



Image by Andrew Petroeshevsky

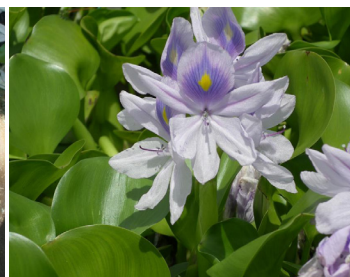


Image by Paul Sullivan NSW DPI



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Image by Melissa Freeman



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