

# COMMON/EUROPEAN FROGBIT

*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*

Hydrocharitaceae, the tape grass family

Category: EDRR

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## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Common/European frogbit is a free-floating aquatic plant that forms large, dense mats within waterbodies.
- The plant can displace native species causing negative environmental impacts such as decreased water quality and reduced biodiversity.
- Infestations can impede recreational activities as well as negatively impact water distribution and the economy.

### Description

- Free-floating aquatic annual growing up to 5 ft. across.
- Round, green heart-shaped leaves are purple on the underside with a leathery texture.
- Small, 3-petaled white flowers measure 1/2 in. across.
- Plants produce stolons and can reproduce by fragmentation and the development of wintering buds called turions.

### Introduction and Movement

- Common/European frogbit is native to Europe and parts of Asia and Africa. It was first introduced to Canada intentionally, as a water garden plant, then unintentionally introduced to the U.S. in 1974, likely through escaping containment.
- It can inhabit slow moving waters such as rivers, ponds, and lakes and is easily spread through fragmentation by hitching a ride on water currents, wildlife and recreational equipment.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Common/European frogbit and report any sightings.
- Always research water garden plants before purchasing.
- Never release water garden species into surface waters and dispose of unwanted vegetation by burning, composting, or drying out completely.
- When boating, make sure to clean off any vegetative materials when leaving each waterbody, and before launching into another.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW**

**DON'T LET IT LOOSE & CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY**

#### Sources

- CAB International Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/28140>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV](http://INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV)  
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

# COMMON/EUROPEAN FROGBIT DISTRIBUTION MAP



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