

GIANT SALVINIA

Salvinia molesta
Salviniaceae, the floating fern family
Category: EDRR

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Giant salvinia is a free-floating aquatic plant that has the ability to form large, dense mats within waterbodies.
- Infestations can change aquatic habitats by altering hydrology and depleting available oxygen as well as shade out native species which reduces the biodiversity of submerged plants.
- Damage caused by this plant can negatively impact ecosystem services, as well as recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, and boating.

Description

- Free-floating perennial fern.
- Upper surface of leaves have stiff hairs with eggbeater-like appearance.
- Submerged leaves contain egg-shaped sporangia.
- Roots are feather-like in appearance.
- Does not produce flowers or seeds.

Introduction and Movement

- Giant salvinia is native to south-eastern Brazil and was introduced through the release of aquaria contents into waterways.
- It prefers stagnant or slow-moving waters and can spread through fragmentation by vectors such as wind, water currents, flooding, recreational equipment, and animals.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Giant salvinia and report any sightings.
- Always research aquarium plants before purchasing.
- Never release aquarium contents or 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

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/48447>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

GIANT SALVINIA DISTRIBUTION MAP



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