

FEATHERED MOSQUITO FERN

Azolla pinnata

Azollaceae, the mosquito fern family

Category: EDRR

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Feathered mosquito fern rapidly reproduces to form large, dense mats within waterbodies and is capable of changing aquatic habitats by altering water chemistry, out-competing native species and decreasing ecosystem biodiversity.
- Damage caused by this plant can negatively impact recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, and boating. Can also create water delivery issues in irrigation systems.

Description

- Free-floating aquatic annual, triangular in shape.
- Leaves are .04 - .08 inches long, rounded, and occur in overlapping pairs. Lower lobes are reddish and fade to green at the tips.
- Leaves are coated with fine, water repellent hairs enabling the plant to float.
- Fruiting structures on underside can contain up to 64 spores.
- Roots have fine rootlets, giving a feathery appearance.

Introduction and Movement

- Feathered mosquito fern is native to parts of Africa and Asia and was likely introduced through the release of aquaria contents into waterways.
- It inhabits stagnant areas in rivers, ponds, and ditches, and can easily spread by fragments and spores being carried in water currents or by catching a ride on animals and recreational equipment.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Feathered mosquito fern 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/8120>
- 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.

FEATHERED MOSQUITO FERN DISTRIBUTION MAP



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