

# WATER CHESTNUT

*Trapa natans*

Trapaceae, the water caltrop family

Category: EDRR

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## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Water chestnut is a rooted, floating aquatic plant that can form large, dense stands within waterbodies.
- It is an important food crop in some areas and is even protected in Europe. In its non-native range, it is highly invasive and can negatively impact aquatic habitats by altering hydrology and depleting available oxygen.

### Description

- Rooted floating annual that can grow up to 15' in length.
- Emergent leaves are triangular, leathery, and toothed, forming rosettes on the water's surface.
- Flowers are small, white with 4 petals.
- Fruit is green to brown with 4 sharp spines; black nuts do not sprout.
- Each seed can produce 10-15 rosettes and each rosette can produce up to 20 seeds.

### Introduction and Movement

- Water chestnut is native to Europe, Asia, and Africa and was intentionally introduced as an ornamental and then escaped confinement.
- It prefers full sun and nutrient-rich fresh waters, and can easily spread by plant fragments washing downstream or catching a ride on animals and recreational equipment.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Water chestnut and report any sightings.
- Always research water garden 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/55040>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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Shaun Winterton, Aquarium Pond Plants of the World, Edition 3, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

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

# WATER CHESTNUT DISTRIBUTION MAP



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