

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!



Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Aquatic perennial forb, native to South and Central America.
- Generally free-floating, growing out of a dense mat of unrooted plants connected by surface roots (stolons).
- Leaves are shiny, green, round to egg-shaped, and grow upright on inflated, spongy stalks in spiral rosettes.
- Leaves are up to 30 cm long and 15 cm wide.
- Clusters of 4-15 flowers bloom on a single spike.
- Flower color varies from light purple to white, with 6 petals (up to 4 cm long), and feature a darker purple with yellow centre mark on one of the petals.
- Fruit capsules 1-1.5 cm long, contain up to 450 egg-shaped seeds (0.5-1.5 mm long).
- Roots are feather-like, highly divided, black to dark purple hanging 20–60 cm below the rosette.



Flowering spike

Image: Wouter Hagens

PRIMARY THREATS: Dominates fresh waterways, reducing biodiversity and fish populations, and increasing mosquito habitat.



Image: B.C. Government

Feather-like floating roots

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

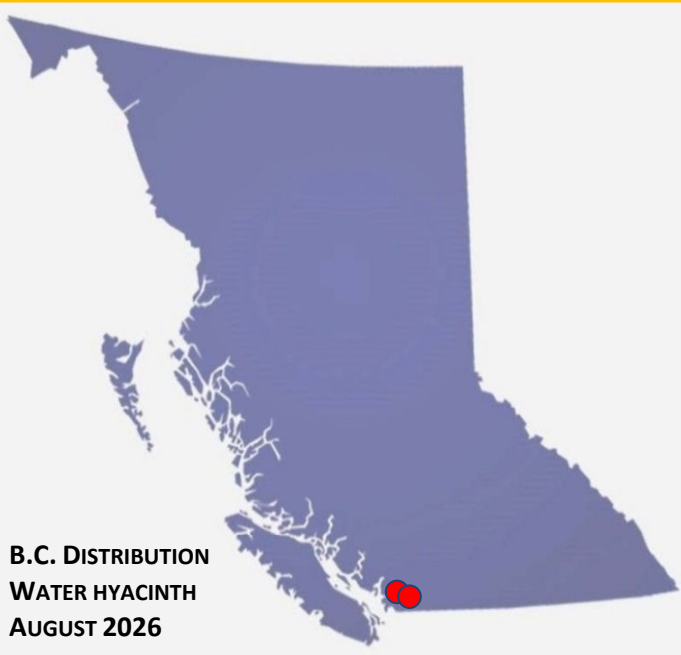
- Reproduces via seed or vegetative growth
- A single population can double in 1 to 2 weeks
- Produces 3,000-5,000 seeds that can germinate in days or remain viable for up to 20 years.
- Vegetative growth occurs via fragmentation or stolons that develop into daughter plants.
- Plants disperse locally in water via currents or by catching wind in their round, sail-like leaves.
- Nursery sales are the main pathway for long distance spread.



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DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Management goal is provincial eradication in open waterways.
- Monitoring treated populations in two open waterways in southwest B.C.

HABITAT

- Grows in freshwater ponds, ditches, wetlands, lakes, slow-moving rivers, dam reservoirs, and hot springs.
- Thrives in fluctuating water levels and can tolerate saturated soil for several months.
- Difficulty over-wintering at 0°C temperatures sustained for three weeks or more.
- Northward range expansion likely with climate change and warmer winters.

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

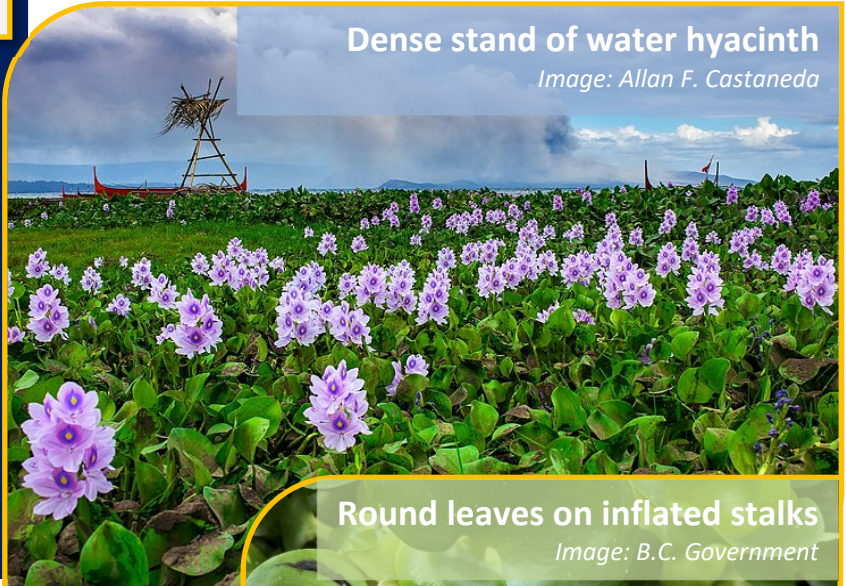
Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** sightings
- **CHOOSE** only non-invasive plants for your water garden
- **DISPOSE** of aquarium, pond and water garden plant waste in a dryland compost or landfill
- **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** all watercraft, waders, and other water equipment on site after each use:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/invasive-mussels/clean-drain-dry>



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