WATER WEEDS SPREAD BY FLOODING

ACT NOW

Have the recent floods brought unwanted and invasive water weeds to your creek or dam?

If you have a creek running through your property or a dam, it's important to regularly check for invasive water weeds – especially after flooding. All landholders are required to manage invasive water weeds. During a flood, water weed seeds and fragments can float and be carried and deposited into new water bodies.

The water weeds can quickly multiply causing the following problems:

- Smothering dams and creeks – starving them of oxygen
- Collecting silt and debris – filling in and destroying the water source over time
- Covering the surface or below water space – reducing accessibility to and use of the water.

LOOK AROUND

Take a walk around your property's dams and waterways:

- Search for plants that you haven't noticed before in the water.
- Water weeds may be floating on the surface, fully submerged, rooted into the soil beneath the water, or on the water's edge.
- Native water plants can also spread with floodwaters, these species do not require management.

TAKE ACTION

1. Act early, before the plant flowers, sets seeds or has a chance to multiply vegetatively.
2. Physical Removal – initially remove small patches by hand. Machine harvesting may be required if the infestation is left unmanaged.
   - Removed plants and segments need to be taken well away from the water so they can't wash back in or regrow. Leave to dry out or compost.
3. Herbicide Treatment – ensure the product is registered for the species and suitable for use around/in water. Only use as per product label.
4. Organic herbicides are available for some species, but often require multiple treatments.
5. Integrating techniques (using both physical and herbicide treatments) often has the best results.

SEEK SUPPORT

Report any new invasive water weed you find to council. This helps us map the movement of high-risk species across the region, strategically plan for collaborative action and support you with advice on the best management approach.

Phone: 1300 307 800 ***Check overpage for ID tips***

Web Search

- GRC – Biosecurity
- Weed Identification – Brisbane City Council
- DAF Invasive Plant Species

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PRIORITY ACTION LIST

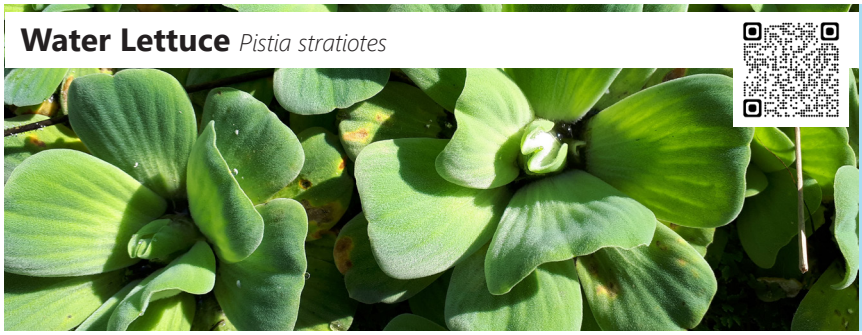
Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*

Floating water weed growing up to 65cm thick off the water surface. Rounded paddle-shaped glossy green leaves up to 5-10cm in diameter. Swollen, spongy leaf stalks. 8-15 purple flowers on a spike out of water.

Salvinia *Salvinia molesta*

Free-floating aquatic fern with small spongy green leaves covered in stiff, water-repellent hairs. Has 3 very different phases of growth. Young leaves are small oval shaped about 12mm wide, laying flat on the water surface. Mature leaves become thick and fold at a mid-rib and have trails of roots like wet hairs underneath. Reproduction is vegetative and by plant fragments.

Water Lettuce *Pistia stratiotes*



Floating waterweed resembling a small open head of lettuce with fan-shaped pale green spongy leaves with parallel veins and velvety short hairs. Fibrous roots up to 80cm long hang under rosettes. Flowers are small white and hidden at the base of the rosette of leaves.

Cabomba *Cabomba caroliniana*

Aggressive perennial. Fully submerged aquatic plant to depths of 3m. Multiple stems up to 10m in length. Leaves are brown-green repeatedly divided feathery fan-shaped, placed opposite along the stem. Forms dense canopies below the water surface. Flowers are white and about 2cm across, appearing above the surface on short stem.

Amazon Frogbit *Limnobium laevigatum*

Floating water weed with bright green leaves up to 4cm wide, arranged in basal rosettes along runners. Can form mats that grow up to 50cm high off the water. Flowers are small white-yellow up to 13mm wide. Small fruits form under the plant in the water.

All landholders have a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO), under the B*iosecurity Act 2014*, to manage the risks associated with invasive plants (or animals) that they encounter. The responsibility is on landholders to know what species they have on their land and to manage them appropriately.

Images – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Biosecurity Queensland

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