

Seen this plant? Frogbit

Limnobium laevigatum



How does this weed affect us?

Frogbit (sometimes call spongeplant) is a floating freshwater plant that spreads quickly and smothers ponds, dams, lakes, rivers and creeks. It can spread from a tiny piece into a thick floating mat covering the whole water surface, and:

- clog waterways and make the water colder, darker and harder to reach for native plants and animals that use it
- reduce the number of native plants, animals, fish and birds that can live in or near a waterway
- make it hard to use a waterway for fishing, swimming or boating
- hide the view of the water surface, creating a danger by making the water surface look like firm ground

Seen it? Call us:

NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline

1800 680 244

Help protect our precious waterways

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:

weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Frogbit



NEW SOUTH WALES

No Space for Weeeeds



Images: Terry Inkson, Courtesy MidCoast Council; and www.plantsam.com

Where are you likely to find it?

Look for it in still or slow flowing fresh water - ponds, rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands and dams.

It is also found in garden ponds and water features, aquariums, and drains and ponds close to public parks.

You may also see it for sale online or at markets (it is illegal to sell it).

What does it look like?

It has smooth, round fleshy green leaves about 4 cm across. The top sides of the leaves are glossy green and the underside of each leaf looks and feels like a sponge (above right).

The leaves can float on the water or stick up on stems when the plants are crowded together.

The plants have hairy branched roots that hang down in the water, and small white flowers in between the leaves.

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