





Aquatic weeds and native substitutes
















Landcare Fact Sheet No.7

Aquatic weed species threaten our native ecosystem biodiversity and cost millions of dollars nationally to remove. They are among the most difficult of weeds to control because of their ability to propagate easily from vegetative pieces as well as seed, and the ease of their dispersal through water flow. Because of this, aquatic weeds need to be tackled on a catchment basis: for example, it is impossible to eradicate Water Hyacinth from your section of freshwater wetland if your upstream neighbours have it in their wetlands or dams. With the next storm or flood, it will be back through your property.

Permaculture (gardening for food production) is a great idea but only if you harvest your produce, and keep exotic edible aquatic species like exotic Lotus, Cocoyam, Taro, and Chinese Water Chestnut out of natural waterways. If you are going to grow them, then grow them in above-ground tubs or ponds, or in off-stream dams above flood levels.

This factsheet describes a number of aquatic weeds that are particularly a problem on Lake Macquarie Landcare sites and suggests some alternative native plants which it is preferred that people use instead in their gardens.

Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Weeds	Native Substitute
<p data-bbox="320 1301 587 1328"><i>Salvinia molesta</i> Salvinia</p> <p data-bbox="161 1357 225 1435">X</p>  <p data-bbox="236 1608 671 1635">Photo by Wilson, C.G. from www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p data-bbox="826 1301 1358 1328"><i>Azolla pinnata</i> or <i>A. filiculoides</i> Native Water Fern</p> <p data-bbox="783 1379 847 1447">✓</p>  <p data-bbox="884 1597 1289 1624">Photo by Fagg, M. from www.anbg.gov.au</p>
<p data-bbox="268 1682 639 1709"><i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i> Sagittaria</p> <p data-bbox="161 1727 225 1805">X</p>  <p data-bbox="242 1727 438 1787">Photo by Dan Tenaglia www.missouriplants.com</p> <p data-bbox="258 2018 486 2045">From www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p data-bbox="874 1682 1310 1709"><i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> Water Plantain</p> <p data-bbox="783 1749 847 1816">✓</p>  <p data-bbox="884 2040 1289 2067">Photo by Fagg, M. from www.anbg.gov.au</p>

Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Weeds	Native Substitute
<p><i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> Water Hyacinth</p> <p>X  Photo by Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p><i>Villarsia exaltata</i> Yellow Marsh Flower</p> <p>  Photo Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>
<p><i>Canna indica</i> Canna Lily</p> <p>X  Photo Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p><i>Alpinia caerulea</i> Native Ginger</p> <p>  Photo Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>
<p><i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Exotic Lotus</p> <p>X  Photo Greig, D from www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p><i>Ottelia ovalifolia</i> Swamp Lily</p> <p>  Photo by Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>
<p><i>Colocasia esculata</i> Elephant's Ear, Cocoyam, Taro</p> <p>X  Photo Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p><i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i> Cunjevoi</p> <p>  Photo Fagg, M from www.anbg.gov.au</p>
<p><i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> Arum Lily</p> <p>X  Photo Richardson, R.G. & F.J from www.anbg.gov.au</p>	<p><i>Crinum pedunculatum</i> Crinum Lily</p> <p>  Photo Stewart, G</p>



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Lake Macquarie Landcare is proudly supported by Lake Macquarie City Council

Produced at the Landcare Resource Centre 2013, updated 2017