

Trapa natans

Water chestnut

Other common names: European water chestnut, water nut

Trapaceae, the water caltrop family

Category: **EDRR**



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Rooted, floating annual; can grow to 15 feet in length
- Emergent leaves form rosettes which are alternate, triangular, and toothed; are connected to stem by inflated petiole
- Submerged leaves are feathery, alternate, and opposite; considered roots by some
- Flowers are 4-petaled and white in color
- Fruit contains one seed, is green to brown, and has 2-4 sharp spines

Background

- Native to Asia
- Inhabits slow moving waters such as rivers, ponds, lakes, and canals
- Reproduces by seeds
- Forms dense mats of vegetation on the water's surface
- Out-competes native vegetation; impedes recreation

Photo Credit:

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

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