

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

Common/European Frogbit

Hydrocharitaceae, the tape grass family

Category: **EDRR**



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Free-floating aquatic annual
- Leaves are approximately 1 inch in diameter, round and heart-shaped
- Leaf underside is dark purplish-red with a spongy coating (helps plant to float); curved veins extend from midvein following the leaf shape
- Flowers are 0.6 inch in diameter, have 3 petals, and are white with a yellow center

Background

- Native to Europe and parts of Asia and Africa; introduced as an ornamental
- Inhabits slow moving waters such as rivers, ponds, lakes, and ditches
- Reproduces by seeds, stem fragments, and turions
- Fast growing and forms thick mats; will shade and outcompete native species
- Plant decomposition in dense areas can remove oxygen from the water and adversely affect aquatic flora and fauna

Photo Credit:

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