

Eichhornia crassipes

Water Hyacinth

Pontederiaceae, the pickerel-weed family

Category: **EDRR**



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Plant is free-floating
- Leaves are ovate, 4-8 inches in diameter with parallel veins and smooth margins
- Leaf stalks are spongy with bulbous inflated bases
- Produces thick flowering stalk up to 20 inches long
- Flowers are showy with 8-15 flowers on a single plant; flowers have 6 petals that are bluish in color (note central yellow blotch on top petal)

Background

- Native to South America
- Inhabits slow moving water such as ponds, lakes, rivers, and canals
- Reproduces primarily vegetatively and also by seeds
- Grows to nuisance levels in warmer temperate regions world-wide and thermally influenced water areas
- Popular ornamental pond plant

Photo Credit:

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