

## YOU CAN HELP

Controlling aquatic weeds is costly and labour intensive. It is important to prevent their introduction and spread rather than wait for a problem to develop.

- Use fern-like native *Azolla* in ponds rather than noxious weeds like *Salvinia*.
- Never dispose of any aquarium or pond plant in or near a drain or waterway.
- To dispose of plants, dry them out on newspaper, then bury or bag for rubbish collection, or compost them.
- Learn to identify weeds.
- Report any suspect plants you see in waterways to the nearest office of Agriculture Western Australia.
- Join a local catchment or environment group and join in a weed eradication or wetland restoration project.



Friends of Quenda Creek, Gooseberry Hill.  
Controlling weeds and planting local native vegetation help to restore creeks and rivers to living streams.

## FIND OUT MORE

### Weeds

Agriculture Western Australia 1997, *Serious aquatic weeds of Western Australia*. Weednote 1/97.

Agriculture Western Australia (08) 9368 3729.

Agriculture Western Australia, Weed Science Group (08) 9368 3333 [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)

Environmental Weeds Home Page  
[weeds.merriweb.com.au](http://weeds.merriweb.com.au)

(provides links to other websites, workshops and publications including Sandy's Links Page).

Hussey, B. M. J. *et al* 1997, *Western Weeds — a guide to the weeds of Western Australia*, Plant Protection Society of WA.

Sainty, G. R. & Jacobs, S. W. L. 1994, *Waterplants in Australia* (3rd edition), Sainty & Associates, Sydney.

### Getting involved

Environmental Weeds Action Network (08) 9299 6816

Swan Catchment Centre (08) 9221 3840

[www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon)



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NOT FOR LOAN

# Preventing aquatic weeds in waterways



ADVICE TO AQUARIUM  
AND POND OWNERS

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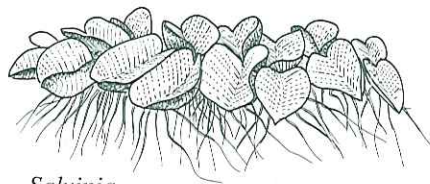
## WHAT ARE AQUATIC WEEDS?

A weed is an alien or introduced plant. Most environmental weeds have been introduced from other countries, but any plant that is not local to the area can be considered a weed. Some introduced aquatic plants grow very rapidly in local water bodies, taking advantage of slow-moving, warm water and plentiful nutrient supplies. They are serious weeds and cause great harm to the environment.

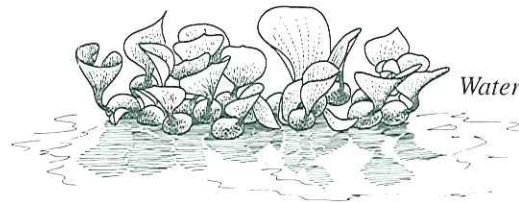
## AQUATIC WEEDS THREATEN WATERWAYS

The degradation of natural habitats by weeds is one of the most serious problems facing the Australian environment. Introduced aquatic plants cause many problems including:

- clogged waterways and irrigation pumps
- trapping and build up of sediment
- stagnant water (low oxygen levels) leading to death of native fish and other aquatic animals
- loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitats
- recreation hazards

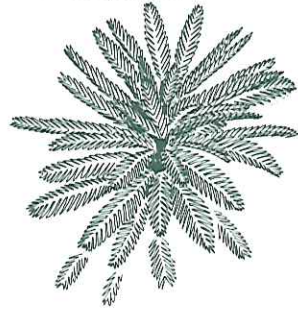


*Salvinia*

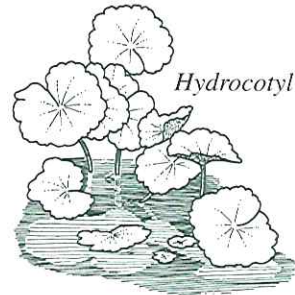


*Water hyacinth*

*Parrot's feather*



*Water lettuce*



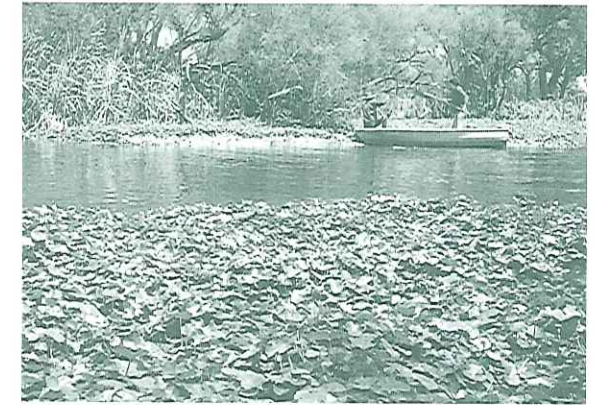
*Hydrocotyl*



*Alligator weed*

## RECOGNISING THE INVADERS

Some aquatic weeds are such a serious threat that they are banned throughout Western Australia. They must not be imported, kept or sold. They include leafy elodea (*Egeria densa*), salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), sagittaria (*Sagittaria platyphylla*), alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), arrowhead (*Sagittaria montevidensis*), and hydrocotyl (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*).



## HYDROCOTYL IN THE CANNING RIVER

The introduced plant hydrocotyl grew out of control in the Canning River in the early 1990s. The European plant may have got into the river from aquarium waste tipped into a drain. It covered the river from bank to bank for six kilometres upstream of Kent Street Weir. Removal by harvesters and volunteers, and selective spraying with herbicide, eventually controlled the outbreak at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars.