



Eichhornia crassipes

Common Name(s):

water hyacinth

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Mostly northern parts of NZ, subject to a national eradication programme since 1950's with few populations now remaining.

Habitat:

Still and slow flowing water bodies in warm areas.

Features*:

Free floating perennial herb. Plants are stoloniferous with daughter plants often attached. Leaves are bright green, often with a spongy inflated petiole. Roots are long and finely divided, and are bright purple when young before becoming black. Flowers are large (7 cm in diameter) in a spike of up to 10 flowers. They are blue-purple with a central yellow eye surrounded by a dark ring on the uppermost petal. The inflorescence stalk (peduncle) bends underwater when fertilized to release many small, ribbed seeds that sink to the bottom sediments after the capsule disintegrates.

Flowering:

mid summer to early
autumn

Fruiting:

Late
summer/autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

Kasselmann C (2003). Aquarium plants. Krieger Publishing company, Florida, 518pp.; Hofstra D, P Champion, (2006). Management options assessment for *Eichhornia crassipes*. NIWA client Report HAM2006-163.

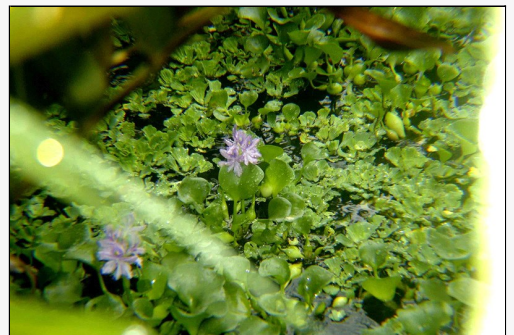
Hofstra D, P Champion, (2006). Organism Consequence Assessment *Eichhornia crassipes*. NIWA Client Report: HAM2006-058a.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3857



Caption: Singapore
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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