

# Salvinia

## *Salvinia molesta*

Salvinia is declared a Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory and is a Weed of National Significance in Australia.

Salvinia is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

### HABIT



Salvinia is a free-floating, perennial aquatic fern that forms mats over water surfaces.

Individual plants range from 5 - 30cm in length.

### STEMS & BRANCHES



It consists of many branched horizontal stems, 1 - 2mm in diameter, which float just below the water surface.

### LEAVES



At each node, or joint, on the stem is a pair of floating, green, oval-shaped 'leaves' (fronds). A submerged brown modified frond, looks and functions like a root. The 'leaves' are covered in waxy stiff hairs that are shaped like egg beaters.

### FLOWERS

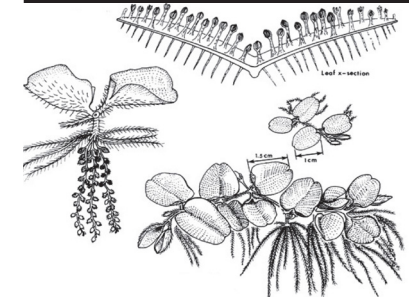


No flowers or true roots are produced.

Biological control has been successful against Salvinia. A tiny weevil called *Cyrtobagous salviniae* was first introduced in 1981.

The grubs of this weevil tunnel into the base of the plant, making it rot, then sink.

### REPRODUCTION



Fruiting bodies containing sterile spores hang from the divided leaf.

Reproduces only by vegetative pieces which are spread by floodwaters, boats, vehicles and animals.

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).