Lagarosiphon* *(Lagarosiphon major)*

*Also known as Oxygen Weed*

Lagarosiphon is a vigorous perennial freshwater herb that grows submerged in lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. It used to be commonly cultivated in garden ponds, from where it has escaped to become a problem in waterways throughout much of New Zealand.

The leaves are arranged spirally round the stem, rather than whorled as is the case with other oxygen weeds, and these leaves are recurved backwards or downwards. The plant produces tiny, solitary, pink female flowers that do not produce seeds in New Zealand.

Plants are relatively brittle, fragmenting and rooting easily, so that the plant is easily transported to other waterways by machinery, boats and trailers or nets.

*Once established Lagarosiphon is difficult to manage, with most methods only giving temporary control. Contact your Regional Council for assistance.*