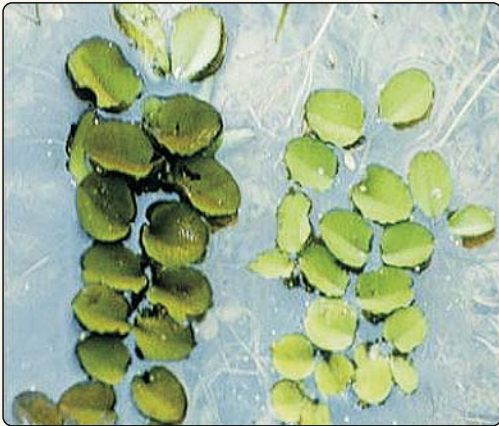
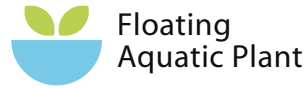


Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)



Forms floating mats on still waters



Root-like leaves (submerged in habitat)

Salvinia is a perennial aquatic fern that forms floating mats on still waters and in swamps. It prefers warm growing conditions and is susceptible to frost.

Salvinia has crowded, brown-green leaves up to 4 cm long and 5 cm across that are folded about the midrib. The upper surfaces of the leaves are densely covered in strongly water-resistant egg beater-like hairs. Finely dissected, submerged root-like structures hang down into the water often with chains of small round spore-bearing organs. The plant does not produce ripe spores in New Zealand.

Salvinia forms extensive mats that can double in area in only 10 days. Salvinia is spread from one waterbody to another, often deliberately, by humans.

Salvinia has the potential to be a very serious weed if allowed to spread. At present it is only found in a few places. It is a notifiable organism and is subject to a MAF eradication programme. All sightings must be reported to MAF's contracted control agency, AgriQuality New Zealand (phone: 0508 00 11 22), who will arrange for its clearance and disposal.