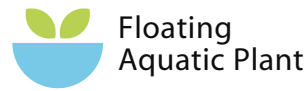


## Bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*)



*Yellow flowers with five petals*

Bladderwort is a partly submerged floating aquatic, unattached perennial plant with tangled mats of stems which can grow up to 50cm long. Stems readily fragment with each piece capable of forming a new plant. It grows in sheltered waters in lakes, ponds and marshes.

Bladderwort's leaves are finely divided, almost like filaments and have tiny bladder-like traps in which small aquatic animals are ensnared and digested. The plant has no roots. It has 5-petaled, yellow flowers with brown markings, resembling a snapdragon flower, and which are held above the water surface. These then produce a rounded fruit capsule containing many seeds.

Bladderwort spreads by seeds and stem fragments which may contaminate boats, nets or drainage machinery.

**There are several native species of bladderwort including a very similar plant *Utricularia protrusa* which is endangered. Care must be taken not to confuse this with the unwanted, invasive species. Contact your Regional Council for advice.**