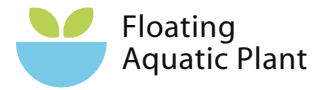


Fringed water lily (*Nymphoides peltata*)



Heart-shaped leaves, with scalloped edges



Yellow flowers October through to April

Fringed water lily is a freshwater aquatic, robust, bottom-rooted perennial with long, branched, creeping stems that lie just below the water surface producing dense mats of floating leaves.

This water lily-like plant has heart-shaped leaves, with distinctive scalloped edges, up to 7 cm across. The golden yellow 5-lobed flowers appear in clusters above the water surface from October through to April. Each flower has a distinctive fringed wing around the petals and only lasts for a day. Seed is produced in flattened green capsules. Seeds have a fringe of bristles, which are an adaptation for dispersal by ducks.

Dispersal to new water bodies appears to be by intentional plantings in New Zealand, although stem fragments can grow to form new plants and potential spread by waterfowl could occur.

Fringed waterlily is of extremely limited distribution in New Zealand but has the potential to spread and become a very serious problem. Any new sightings should be reported immediately to your Regional Council.