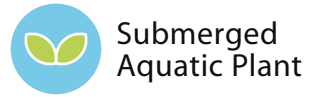


Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)



Submerged
Aquatic Plant



Green, forked leaves with toothed edges

Hornwort is a submerged freshwater perennial found in still or flowing water. It is often found in fertile, nitrogen-rich waters but also grows in deep clear water lakes to depths of 16 m.

Lacking roots, hornwort is often free-floating, although its modified base leaves can act as roots anchoring the plant in sediment or around obstructions in flowing waters. The stems, up to 7 m long, are branched and brittle. The green, forked leaves with toothed edges are arranged in whorls of 7-12. The flowers are minute and no seed is set in New Zealand. Stem fragments can grow to form new plants.

Hornwort is spread by stem fragments, so that the plant is easily transported to other waterways by machinery, boats and trailers or nets.

This weed is still of limited distribution in much of New Zealand, being only recently discovered in the South Island. Once established it is very difficult to eliminate. Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.