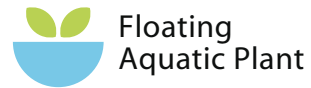


Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*)



Leaves cluster in a floating rosette



Forms large, floating mats

Water Chestnut is an annual, floating aquatic plant, grown as a food plant in Asia. Usually rooted in the mud of ponds, lakes and rivers, it can become amphibious on wet, muddy land and frequently forms large, floating mats.

The stem is long and lax, with four-sided leaves clustered in a floating rosette towards its tip. White, solitary flowers are borne above the water and fruit then develops submerged. This fruit is edible, large, fleshy and four-horned, sharp enough to penetrate the feet of livestock and humans.

The plant over-winters as seed and re-grows in spring.

This plant is not believed to be present in New Zealand. If you think you have found it, please advise your Regional Council immediately.