

Water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*)



Flowers only last for 1-2 days

Water poppy is an invasive aquatic weed found in still or flowing freshwater up to 2m in depth. Despite being subtropical, it grows well in both warm and cool temperate climates and thrives in nutrient rich conditions.

Water poppy has long creeping stems that root and produce leaves and flowers at the nodes. The leaves are thick, shiny and oval, 7 cm by 6 cm, with an inflated buoyant midrib. Between November and April, individual poppy-shaped flowers grow above the water level. The flowers have three pale yellow petals and each only lasts for 1-2 days.

Water poppy produces no seeds but spreads by extension of its creeping stems and from broken stem fragments carried by water, machinery, boats or people.

Small infestations can be cleared by hand.

Water poppy is not widely spread in New Zealand. Any new sightings should be reported to your Regional Council.