

# Water hyacinth

## *Eichhornia crassipes*

Water hyacinth is declared a Class A (to be eradicated) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory and is a Weed of National Significance in Australia.

Water hyacinth is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

### HABIT



Water hyacinth is an erect free floating aquatic plant occasionally rooted in shallow water, perennial herb to 60cm high.

### STEMS & BRANCHES



Young plants with leaf stalks to 25cm long, inflated at the base and older plants with leaf stalks to 60cm long, without inflated bases. Roots feathery, black to purple, to 1m long; usually short if water is nutrient rich.

### LEAVES



Leaves fleshy in a basal rosette on bulbous stems (dark green).

### FLOWERS



Flower heads arising from middle of rosettes; flowers 5 - 35, bluish, purple or white.

Flowers October to July.

### REPRODUCTION



Water hyacinth can reproduce both vegetatively (by producing daughter plants) and through the production of seed. Seed ovate-oblong, ribbed, about 1mm long. Seed is viable for up to 20 years.

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).