

**KEY
CHARACTERISTICS**

growth Free-floating plant, growing up to three feet in height. Reproduces vegetatively by short runner stems (stolons) that radiate from the base of the plant to form daughter plants; also reproduces by seed.

Inflorescence Single spike of several (8 to 15) showy flowers. Flowers have 6 petals, purplish blue or lavender to pinkish. Upper petals with yellow, blue-bordered central splotches.

leaves Thick, waxy, rounded, glossy leaves, which rise well above the water surface on stalks. Broadly ovate to circular, 4 to 8 inches in diameter, with gently incurved sides, often wavy. Veins are dense, numerous, fine and longitudinal.

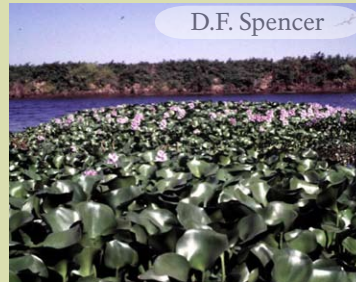
stems Bulbous and spongy, erect, 6 cm wide to 76 cm long.

roots
fruit

Shoots are branched, stoloniferous rhizomes with several short internodes. Each node bears a leaf and roots. Stolons can be purplish in color and be up to 50 cm long.

Purplish black and feathery.

Capsule, 3-celled, with many seeds; seeds ribbed, formed in submerged, withered flower; fruit and seeds are rarely observed; seeds may produce many seedlings in moderate climates.



flower color

Elevation:
Acceptable climates in Az
occur below 2500 feet.

Ecotypes Invaded:
Freshwater systems.

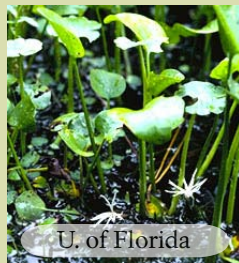
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Besides blocking boat traffic and preventing swimming and fishing, water hyacinth infestations also prevent sunlight and oxygen from getting into the water.

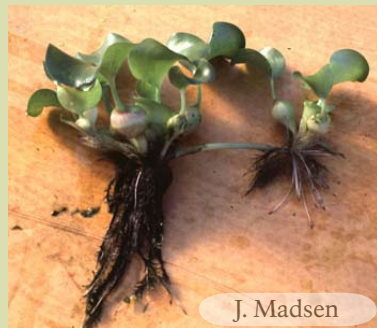
Decaying plant matter also reduces oxygen in the water. Thus, water hyacinth infestations reduce fisheries, shade out submersed plants, crowd out emersed plants, and reduce biological diversity.



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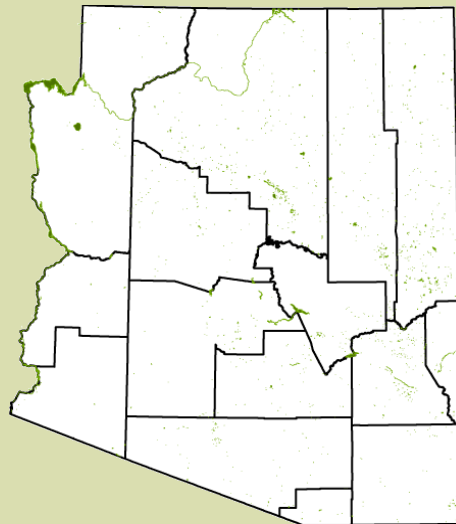


J. Madsen

*** May be confused with frog's bit (*Limnobium spongia*). It can be distinguished by comparing root and stem characteristics. *L.spongia* does not have feathered roots, nor does it have bulbous stems. Nor is it found in AZ***



SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

E. crassipes spongy bulbous stems(left) and *L.spongia* (right).