



**KEY
CHARACTERISTICS**

growth

Submerged aquatic perennial, sometimes rooted, other times free-floating. Plants are monoecious and dioecious. Easily reproduces vegetatively even from small root/stem pieces.

leaves

Lanceolate, 2-4 mm wide, 6-20 mm long, sessile, and arranged in whorls of 3-8; 11-39 sharp teeth per cm along margins and often spines or glands on the underside of the red midrib. Teeth are deciduous and leave behind elevated projections.

**female
flowers**

Three whitish sepals and three translucent petals 10-50 mm long and 4-8 mm wide, borne from a green spathe attached at the leaf axils. Flowers clustered toward the stem tips and float on the water surface; flowering branch tips often compact and have very short leaves.

**male
flowers**

6 Whitish red or brown tepals 3 mm long and 2 mm wide, and 3 stamens. These borne on a short stalk. Released at maturity to float on the surface and release pollen.

In monoecious plants, male and female flowers are produced singly from the spathe.

stems

Branches profusely near the water surface, much less below.



Note small, linear and spine edged leaves.

flower color

Elevation:
900- 2500 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Freshwater systems.

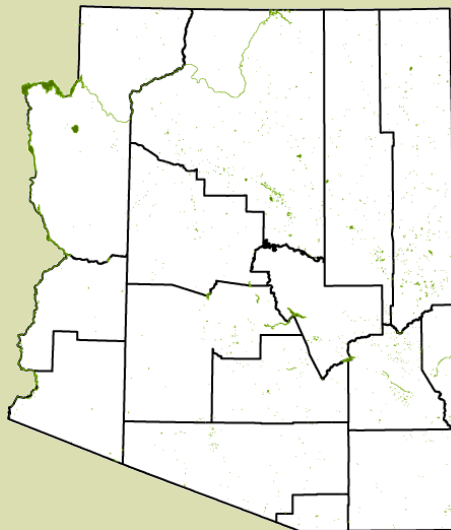
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Dense infestations are known to negatively affect waterfowl, bass populations and also to increase habitat for mosquito larvae. It restricts water flow in streams, increases sediment and organic matter deposition, reduces availability of light to submerged plants and animals, and alters water quality.

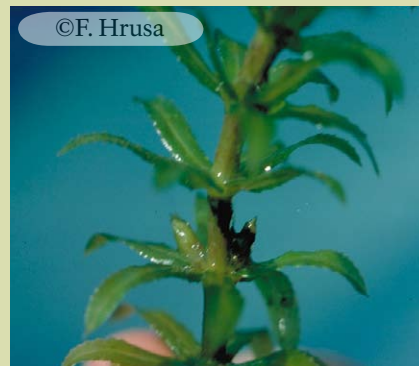


Infested river

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.



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