

WEED INFORMATION SHEET

WATER HYACINTH

Noxious Weed



Photo's courtesy M.Edmonds, K.Bunn



Eichhornia crassipes - An introduced aquatic plant, Hyacinth is found in creeks and other water bodies throughout NSW. declared Noxious Weed in all states in Australia.

A major pest of waterways, dense growth will reduce fish populations, limit food sources for water fowl, provided shelter for mosquitoes and other disease-spreading organisms. May build-up at bridges creating a dam and endangering the structure. Causes increased siltation and decreases the oxygen in the water. Very fast growing rate (in one season a few plants can multiply, through daughter plants, to cover a 30m wide dam.)

DESCRIPTION - Floating plant, slender fibrous root which trail in the water and absorb nutrients. Flowers are Blue/Purple in colour, with the inner petals having a conspicuous yellow mark, each flower consists of six petals. Reproduction is both by vegetative and by seed. Seeds can lay dormant in sediment on the bottom of the waterways for up to 20 years before germinating. Varies from 10 cm to 1m tall. Leaves on spongy buoyant petiole.

HABITAT - Stationary and slow-moving water bodies, especially where nutrient levels are high.

