Aquatic weeds are relatively uncommon in South Australia. You can help us keep it that way by familiarising yourself with their appearance and reporting their presence. See inside for 20 species that may be encountered or are newly emerging threats.

Aquatic weeds are those plants that grow in or on the edge of waterways, including rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands, estuaries and dams or in damp, low lying areas. These weeds are fast growing, due to the ready availability of moisture and nutrients, and have environmental, economic and social impacts. Examples of such impacts include:

- Compromised aquatic habitats including reduced oxygen levels, restricted light and changes to water temperature
- Displacement of native plant and animal species
- Reduced access to waterways for recreational purposes such as fishing and boating
- High costs of controlling weed outbreaks
- Impeding infrastructure for irrigation or human consumption purposes

In many instances aquatic weeds have been introduced into our waterways as a result of incorrect disposal of aquariums and ornamental pond plants. Further spread occurs via seeds or plant fragments and large, dense infestations become difficult and costly to manage.

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Identifying aquatic weeds

Aquatic weeds can be grouped according to their growth habit, including:

- Floating – these plants either float freely or have roots attached to leaves that float on the water’s surface.
- Submerged – these plants grow beneath the water’s surface, though flowers may appear above the water.
- Emergent – these plants grow above the water’s surface in shallow areas such as lake edges and shorelines.

Look for the symbol under each of the accompanying photos to assist in identification of aquatic weeds.

Whilst this brochure acts as a guide it is important to correctly identify plants prior to undertaking control. Further information and advice can be obtained from your regional Natural Resources Management board.
Contact your regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) board office to report a suspected outbreak of any of the weeds featured in this brochure and to receive advice on how to manage them:

Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
Alinytjara Wilurara
Eyre Peninsula
Kangaroo Island
Northern and Yorke
South Australian Arid Lands
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
South East

Advice on managing aquatic weeds

How you can help
South Australia has relatively few aquatic weeds and we need your help to keep it that way. Following are some general guidelines to avoid aquatic weed spread.

- Seek advice at point of purchase. Ask about the plant’s ability to become weedy and request non-weedy alternatives.
- Always follow correct disposal procedures. Dry and incinerate or secure in plastic bags and place in rubbish bins.
- Don’t empty aquariums (including water) into drains or waterways.
- Notify your regional Natural Resources Management board if you suspect you have seen aquatic weeds.
- Know and understand your responsibilities to manage aquatic weeds. All of these aquatic weeds are declared plants under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004.
- Employ hygiene practices after exiting waterways – clean down boats, trailers and vehicles to prevent weed spread.

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www.senrm.sa.gov.au
E reception@senrm.sa.gov.au
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Information on declared plant management can also be obtained from:
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
NRM Biosecurity Unit
E nrmbiosecurity@sa.gov.au
Adelaide 8303 9620

www.nrm.sa.gov.au