

EUROPEAN FROGBIT

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae



Description: European frogbit is an herbaceous, free-floating, annual aquatic plant. Its leaves are leathery and heart-shaped, 1-2 inches long and wide. Undersides are purplish-red and leaf tops are green. Leaf veins are broadly arching, at 75-90 degree angles to the midvein. Flowers are 3-petaled, white with a yellow spot in the flower's center, and are 0.4 inches across. European frogbit produces tiny seeds, though seed production is often limited. It primarily reproduces through stolons (stem-like extensions).



Current Midwest Distribution, including Ontario

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|------------------|------------|
| Not Known | Isolated |
| Locally Abundant | Widespread |

Ecological threat: European frogbit invades quiet, open water. It is found in marshes, ditches, and swamps, and along shorelines of rivers, lakes, and streams. It can spread rapidly through its long, cord-like stolons that create floating mats of interconnected plants. These dense mats are capable of limiting light penetration, negatively affecting native aquatic life. Mats also impede recreational water use. In shallow water, frogbit mats may fill the water column, crowding out native vegetation.

European frogbit is sold in the **aquatic plant trade**. It is **prohibited** in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Native Range: Europe

Current North American Range: European frogbit is found along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. There are isolated populations in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Vermont, and Washington.

For information on **aquatic plant management**, see

http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ws/ws_21.pdf.

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**Early detection and rapid response can help
stop the spread!**