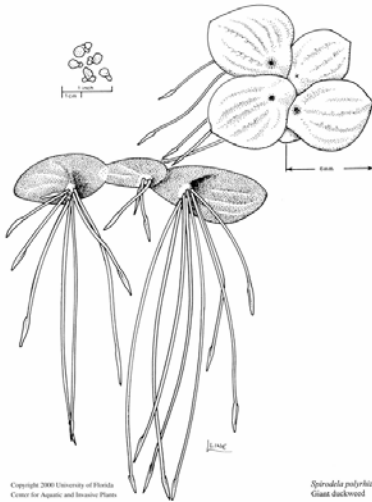


# Free-floating Plants

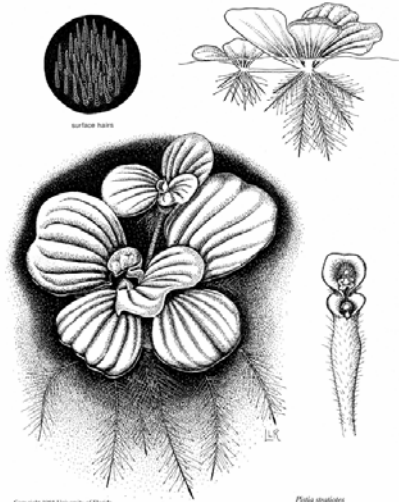
## Cloze Reading Passage



*Spirodela polyrrhiza*  
Giant duckweed



*Utricularia radiata*  
Bladderwort



*Pistia stratiotes*  
Water lettuce

Free-floating plants are not **anchored** in the sediment; they get their nutrients directly from the water. Free-floating plants include duckweeds and some **bladderworts**. Water lettuce and water hyacinth are **free-floating** plants but they also happen to be extremely invasive in Florida waters.

Water hyacinth is considered "the worst aquatic **weed** in the world" because it has invaded the waterways of many countries. When conditions are right, water hyacinth or water lettuce grow extremely well and are capable of completely **covering** the surface of a waterbody. This can cause major habitat, recreational, navigational and **flood** control problems.

Nature gave us very few free-floating plants compared to the number of **submersed** plants that exist in the world.

### Word Bank

anchored weed bladderworts covering

flood Florida free-floating submersed

For more information and photos of free-floating plants:

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/guide/natplant.html#natfloat>

