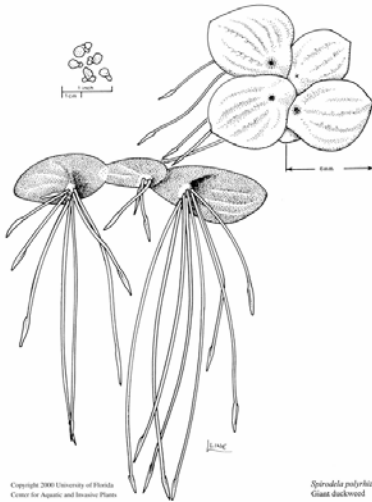


Free-floating Plants

Cloze Reading Passage



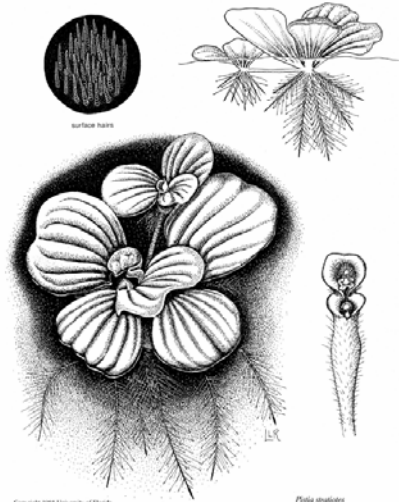
Spirodela polyrrhiza
Giant duckweed



Utricularia radiata

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Circularia radiata
Bladderwort



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Pistia stratiotes
Water lettuce

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

Water hyacinth is considered "the worst aquatic _____ 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 _____ the surface of a waterbody. This can cause major habitat, recreational, navigational and _____ control problems.

Nature gave us very few free-floating plants compared to the number of _____ 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>

