

# *Salvinia molesta*

giant salvinia

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**Appearance:** Free floating fern; stems rootless, hairy, about 10 cm long.

**Leaves:** Borne in 3s, appear 2-ranked, but with 3rd leaf finely dissected and dangling, resembling roots; rounded to somewhat broadly elliptical, to 2 cm long, with cordate base, upper surface with 4-pronged hairs joined at the tips (resembling an egg beater), lower surface hairy.

**Spores:** In a nutlike sporocarp, trailing beneath.

**Ecological threat:**

Spreads rapidly and prolifically into a monoculture which can shade out underwater natives, leaving large bare bottom areas.

**Distribution:** C, SW



**Field Notations**

SALVMOLE/SAM05

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>