

***Pistia stratiotes***

water lettuce



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**Appearance:** Floating herb in rosettes of gray-green leaves; rosettes occurring singly or connected to others by short stolons.

**Leaves:** Often spongy near base; densely soft pubescent with obvious parallel veins, slightly broader than long, widest at apex, to 15 cm (6 in) long.

**Flowers:** Inconspicuous; clustered on small fleshy stalk nearly hidden in leaf axils, with single female flower below and whorl of male flowers above.

**Fruit:** Arising from female flower as a many-seeded green berry.

**Ecological threat:**

Capable of forming vast mats that disrupt submersed plant and animal communities and interfere with water movement and navigation. Also serves as host for at least two genera of mosquitoes. FLEPPC Category I



**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW, SE

**Field Notations**

PISTSTRA/PIST2

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