

Salvinia minima

water fern



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Appearance: Free-floating fern; stems rootless, hairy, about 10 cm (4 in) long.

Leaves: Borne in threes; appear 2-ranked, but with 3rd leaf finely dissected and dangling, resembling roots; rounded to somewhat broadly elliptic, 1–1.5 cm (0.4–1 in) long, with cordate base, upper surface with 4-pronged hairs, lower surface hairy.

Spores: In a nutlike sporocarp (a multicellular structure), trailing beneath.

Ecological threat:

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

Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE



Field Notations

SALVSP/SAM17

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