

Eichhornia crassipes

water hyacinth



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Appearance: Floating aquatic herb; rooting in mud if stranded, usually in dense mats with new plantlets attached on floating green stolons.

Leaves: Formed in rosettes; petioles to 30 cm (12 in) or more; spongy, usually inflated or bulbous, especially near base; leaf blades roundish or broadly elliptic, glossy green, to 15 cm (6 in) wide.

Flowers: Lavender-blue with a yellow blotch; up to 5 cm (2 in) wide, somewhat 2-lipped; 6 petals, 6 stamens.

Fruit: A 3-celled capsule with many seeds.

Ecological threat:

Grows at explosive rates exceeding any other tested vascular plant; doubles its populations in as little as 6-18 days. In large mats, degrades water quality and dramatically alters native plant and animal communities. FLEPPC Category I



Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE

Field Notations

EICHCRAS/EICR

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