# Large-flowered Waterweed
## *Egeria densa*

**Habitat**: Aquatic, freshwater
**Family name**: Hydrocharitaceae

Large-flowered Waterweed Stand

Large-flowered Waterweed is a submerged perennial that can live either rooted or free floating.

The plant can grow very rapidly under suitable conditions, stems are approximately 3 mm thick and can reach lengths of between 1.8 to 3 m but are commonly less than 1 m long. Stems are erect, cylindrical, sparsely branched, with short inter-nodes and grow until they reach the water surface.

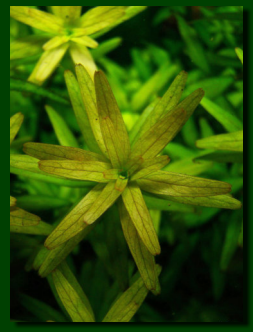
Large-flowered Waterweed with emerging flowers

Large-flower waterweed flower

Plants usually have four leaves per node but can also have up to five or six. However, there can be as many as ten leaves at a fertile node.

Inter-node length ranges from 2.5 to 24 mm, depending on nutrients and light availability. Short inter-nodes tend to give the plant a 'leafy' appearance.

The stem system of the plant will grow until it reaches the surface of the water, where it will begin to spread out, creating a thick flower canopy that blocks light from reaching plants below it.



Large-flowered Waterweed

Waterweed Under-Leaf

It is dioecious, with male and female flowers on separate plants; the flowers are 12–20 mm diameter, with three broad, rounded, white petals, 8–10 mm long on male plants, and 6–7 mm long on female plants.

Waterweed Leaves

Temperature is important for growth, which is mostly stable at temperatures of 16–28 °C, with an upper temperature limit of 32 °C, resulting in reduced shoot growth and photosynthetic output.

Reproduction: reproduces vegetatively through branching and fragmentation. Therefore, secondary dispersal of this species will rely on the presence of dispersal vectors that transport fragments to new locations.

Large-flowered Waterweed flower

Large-flowered Waterweed stem

The most important vectors of secondary dispersal, apart from water current, are related to human activity e.g. boats, anglers, weed harvesters, shoes and clothing.

Large-flower Waterweed *(Egeria densa)* typically displays little variation in growth patterns throughout the year when grown in tropical environments; however, when grown in more moderate environments the plant spends most of its energy on starch production and storage in the winter and canopy growth during the summer season.

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Web: www.enviraculture.com Email: enquiry@enviraculture.com