

Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)

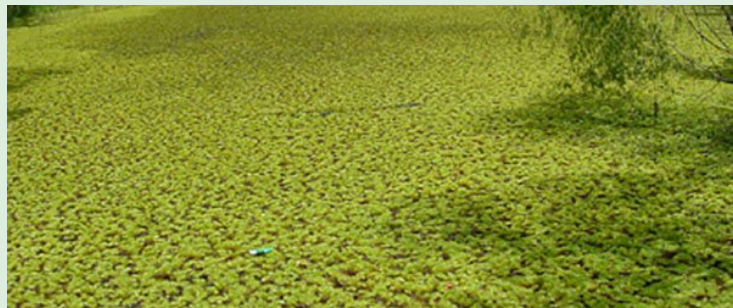


Habitat: Aquatic, Freshwater
Family name: Menyanthaceae



Giant Salvinia Floating Leaves

Description: Giant salvinia is a rootless, free floating fern that can be identified by its broadly rounded green fronds. Pairs of these emergent fronds are produced at each node of a horizontal stem that floats just beneath the water surface.



Giant Salvinia Large Stand

The upper surfaces of the emergent fronds display a prominent midrib that is covered with stiff white leaf hairs that aid in leaf buoyancy.



Giant salvinia is a fern and produces neither flowers or fruits.



Giant Salvinia Floating Leaves



Giant Salvinia Floating Leaves

The upper surfaces of green leaves are covered with rows of white, bristly hairs. Leaves are fleshy. Plants bear a third leaf that is brown and dangles underwater.

Look for leaves that are small (2cm), round, arranged in groups of threes.



Giant Salvinia Floating Leaves

Dispersal is entirely by the movement or drift of floating fronds.

Giant salvinia also produces a hairless, brown submersed leaf that is often mistaken for roots. Spores produced are genetically unable to produce new plants. Giant salvinia reproduces each year with by fragmentation.



Giant Salvinia Sporeess

Giant salvinia can inhabit calm waters of lakes, ponds, wetlands, and rivers. Plants have been located in ditches, rice fields, and slow moving rivers and streams.

The most common habitats include disturbed habitats such as flood canals, rice paddies, artificial lakes.

The leaf hairs of giant salvinia differentiate



Giant Salvinia Leaf Hairs



Giant Salvinia Water Resistance

this species of *Salvinia* from others such as common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) and eared watermoss (*Salvinia auriculata*) by forming cage-like or egg beater shaped hairs.