

### Notify Council

Salvinia is an Unwanted Organism and Notifiable Organism under the Biosecurity Act (1993); propagation, spread, display and sale are prohibited. All sightings must be reported to Biosecurity New Zealand.

### What is council doing about this?

Salvinia is one of nine National Interest Pest Response (NIPR) species that Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI) has identified for either eradication or national control. Biosecurity New Zealand works closely with regional councils and the Department of Conservation on these programmes.

### What does it look like?

Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern that forms large, dense mats. With its hairy leaves and floating habit it can be hard to recognise as a fern. The spongy leaves are green to bronze, up to 5cm long, and their shape varies with the age.

Young, small leaves lie flat on the water surface but mature leaves tend to become crowded and fold up. The upper surface of the leaf is water repellent and covered with distinctive white hairs with an egg-beater like tip. Salvinia has no true roots but has a root-like structure underneath each leaf pair.

Salvinia grows on wind-protected ponds, small lakes, artificial waterbodies (e.g. dams and reservoirs) and swampy backwaters. It grows best in nutrient enriched waters but can survive in frequently inundated, damp mud.

### Why is it a problem?

Salvinia quickly forms extensive mats, completely smothering waterways. It can double in area within 10 days. The mats exclude native plants, block dams and waterways, impede drainage, disrupt recreational activities and reduce water quality by lowering oxygen levels. **The Salvinia mats also create a drowning risk for people and animals.** The only conditions which are not suitable for the species are in cooler seasons, extreme shade or frosty mornings in winter, where the species can suffer from 'winter die-back'.

In New Zealand, salvinia does not produce spores. It spreads vegetatively from plants and plant fragments.



### Control Methods

The salvinia eradication programme consists of containing infestations at the site, removing plants and/or applying herbicide treatments, and monitoring for 2 to 5 years after the last plants are detected, depending on site complexity, to ensure no viable plant material remains. The eradication programme is overseen by Biosecurity New Zealand.

### Related Links

Ministry for Primary Industries <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/salvinia>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.aspx?ID=2664](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2664)

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Salvinia-xmolesta.html>

Unwanted Organisms Register <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/561/Salvinia>

NIPR programme <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/long-term-biosecurity-management-programmes/national-interest-pest-responses-programme/>

NZ Freshwater Weed and Pest Visual Guide <https://www.thisisus.nz/assets/Resources/New-Zealand-freshwater-weed-and-pest-visual-guide.pdf>

Freshwater Invasive Species Guide 2020 [https://niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/Freshwater%20invasive%20species%20of%20New%20Zealand%202020\\_1.pdf](https://niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/Freshwater%20invasive%20species%20of%20New%20Zealand%202020_1.pdf)

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/salvinia/>

Check Clean Dry <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/exotic-pests-and-diseases-in-new-zealand/active-biosecurity-responses-to-pests-and-diseases/exotic-freshwater-clams-corbicula/stop-clams-from-spreading/>

### Rules

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

The National Pest Plant Accord is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment.

### Report this Pest/Weed

<https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/>