



Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*).



Kariba weed (*Salvinia molesta*).



Red water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*).



Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).



Canadian water weed (*Elodea canadensis*).

Pic: Frank Vincentz



Giant reed (*Arundo donax*).

Destroy these invaders!

Rivers, lakes, wetlands and dams throughout South Africa are being invaded by alien aquatic weeds. Introduced from abroad as pond or aquarium plants, these invasive water weeds are transforming our waterways, where they are being spread by fishermen and recreational boaters.

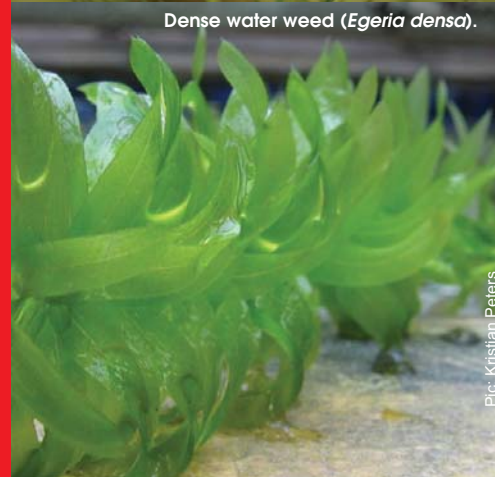
All it takes to start an environmental infestation is a bit of leaf or stem, and, because these plants are vigorous growers, they quickly become a problem. Once they have spread, they cost taxpayers millions of rand to remove.

If you are an environmental gardener, now is the time to remove and destroy any of these plants from your pond or aquarium. Remove every bit of the plant by hand, put in a sealed plastic bag where the plant will die and safely dispose of the bag.

For more information on invasive alien plants, go to www.agis.agric.za/wip www.dwaf.gov.za/wf



Spiked water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*).



Dense water weed (*Egeria densa*).

Pic: Kristian Peters



Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Pic: Lesley Henderson



Cabomba caroliniana



Pickerel weed (*Pontedaria cordata*).



Canna indica

Hydrilla at Pongolapoort Dam, KZN

Hydrilla is one of the world's worst submerged aquatic weeds. It was recently discovered on Pongolapoort Dam in KwaZulu-Natal.

Experts predict disastrous consequences for the environment if the outbreak of hydrilla is allowed to spread to other provinces.



Proposed water weeds

Mud plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), mosquito fern (*Azolla pinnata* subsp. *asiatica*), Carolina fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), creeping burhead (*Echinodorus cordifolius*), Amazon sword plant (*Echinodorus tenellus*), reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*) - (Category 2 - may only be grown under controlled conditions), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*), morning glory bush (*Ipomoea carnea* subsp. *fistulosa*), water primrose (*Ludwigia peruviana*), hyssop loosetrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), yellow water lily (*Nymphaea mexicana*).



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