

# Salvinia molesta (Salvinia)

**Description:** A floating fern with small, coarsely hairy oval leaves which repel water. As the plant matures it turns from bright green to brown and bunches up into tight rafts. Salvinia reproduces by rapidly dividing into smaller plants.

**Distribution:** Salvinia is widespread and occasional in disturbed creek systems in Port Douglas and Wonga Beach. It is commonly detected in water features, garden ponds, and aquariums.

**Impacts:** Salvinia floats on still or slow-moving water and can grow rapidly to cover the entire water surface with a thick mat of vegetation. The thick mat of vegetation shades out any submerged plant life and limits oxygen exchange, making the water unsuitable for fish and other animals.

**Key projects:** Long-term management projects and taking place in Wonga Beach and Ferndale Wetlands reserve. A top of catchment down approach is being used to systematically remove Salvinia from the water features and artificial waterways where it occurs in Douglas Shire. Salvinia can spread on flood water so operations will focus on areas at risk following major weather events.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act Salvinia must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation water lettuce may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Salvinia under their control.

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the prevention zone

You are responsible to know what you are buying online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally introduce Salvinia from a contaminated source.

Be responsible and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

Remove and bag specimens from water features and contact DSC to arrange disposal on 40999444.

Ensure soil or vegetation from known infestations is not moved from the site unless it is disposed of in accordance with the regulation.

#### In the eradication zone

If you have Salvinia in your possession do not share contaminated material including aquatic plants and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

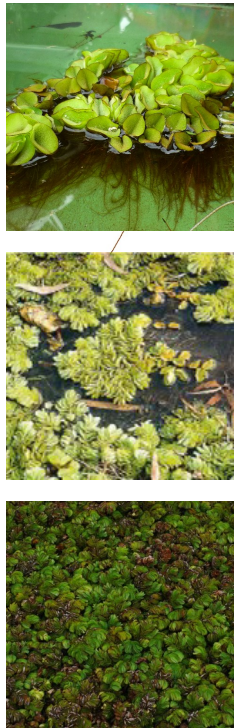
You are responsible to know what you are selling online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally spread Salvinia.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



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## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



Vegetative	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Spray	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Biocontrol	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Manual	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**

- Peak
- First/last flush
- Occasional
- Optimal
- Good
- Marginal