

# Giant Salvinia

*Salvinia molesta*



## What is giant salvinia?

Giant salvinia is one of the most invasive aquatic plants worldwide and is a top priority for immediate eradication. It has oblong leaves 0.5 - 1.5 inches long with rows of cylindrical hairs topped with four branches that are joined at the tips. These hairs repel water and give it a velvety appearance. It reproduces through fragmentation or the production of new plants from lateral and terminal buds.



## Why should we manage it?

Giant salvinia grows rapidly and produces a dense, floating canopy on the surface of freshwater wetlands including ponds, lakes, swamps, rivers, and man-made canals. This thick cover reduces water flow, light penetration, and oxygen levels in the water, posing a threat to commercial and recreational fishing and boating.

*Being able to quickly identify an exotic species in an area and eradicate it before it spreads is one of the most efficient actions that we can do to reduce future treatment costs and impacts to native ecosystems.*

## How can you help?

- Learn more about ID and [differentiating giant salvinia from native common salvinia here](#).
- If you see this plant in cultivation or in the wild, please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 850-617-9430.
- [EDDMapS](#) is available to help with species identification and to [report invasive sightings!](#)
- Join your local [CISMA](#) and follow [FISP](#) for updates.

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