

Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Common frogbit

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

Other common names:

USDA symbol: HYMO6

ODA rating: A



Introduction: There are three species within the genus *Hydrocharis*; none are native to North America and *H. morsus-ranae* is the only species introduced into North America. As a member of the Hydrocharitaceae family, it is related to hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*), and waterweeds (*Elodea* spp.), among others. It is a highly invasive species, capable of surviving in the Pacific Northwest. Exclusive of Oregon, plants are commonly available through retail nurseries, online pond and aquarium vendors, and hobby trading websites.

Distribution: There are no known populations in Oregon.

Description: European frogbit is an herbaceous, annual (or short-lived perennial) monocot that resembles a small water lily and can form large, dense colonies of floating plants with tangled roots. Plants have waxy, green heart or kidney-shaped leaves (1-6 cm (0.5-2.25 in) across) (figure 1) with purple undersides which attach to strong, flexible stolons. Frogbit plants produce small (1 cm across) showy, cup-shaped flowers that are held above the water on short peduncles; flowers are white in color with a yellow dot near the base of each petal. Frogbit produce turions, overwintering in the substrate later emerging in late spring. European frogbit forms dense mats through spreading stolons in still to slow-moving water; it is considered one of Canada's leading invasive aquatic threats.

Impacts: European frogbit can rapidly dominate waterbodies in a single season. It is reported that a single plant arising from a turion can grow to cover one square meter in a single season. Canopies of frogbit would cause severe changes in water quality, dissolved oxygen, plant and animal diversity and loss of recreation.

Biological controls: No biocontrol agents are available. All infestations would be targeted for eradication.

