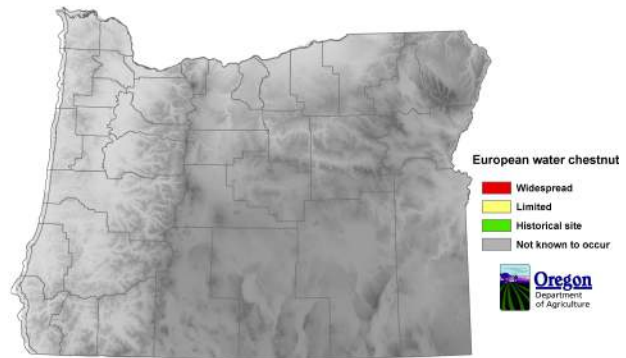


Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

European water chestnut
Trapa natans

Other common names: Water caltrop, buffalo nut, bat nut, devil pod, ling nut, singhara

USDA symbol: TRNA
ODA rating: A



Updated January 2015

State of Oregon (unpublished) (2015)

Introduction: European water chestnut is native to Eurasia, being found in paleotropical and warm temperate regions. Plants were first introduced to North America around 1874 and were known to be cultured in 1877 in the botanical garden of Asa Gray, an eminent botanist at Harvard University.

Distribution in Oregon: No sites have been identified in Oregon at this time.

Description: Water chestnut is an annual aquatic plant forming dense mats on the surfaces of lakes, ponds and slow moving waters. The emerged leaves are diamond-shaped with toothed edges, arranged on inflated, spongy stalks and occur in clusters up to 20 inches across. Submersed leaves are long and narrow and are often replaced with green feather-like structures. Flowers are small, solitary, white to light purple. Fruit is a large swollen nut with two to four sharp spines.

Impacts: The species is an aggressive competitor in shallow water bodies where soft, muddy rooting substrates are available. In the Northeast it forms nearly impenetrable mats across wide areas of water creating barriers to recreationalists. The spiked nuts drift to shore where their sharp spines may hurt bare feet. Monocultures severely limit light penetration and water mixing, creating conditions of reduced oxygen levels that may increase the potential for fish kills. It is of little value to waterfowl.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. This weed is targeted for eradication whenever found.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
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www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

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