

Menyanthes trifoliata

COMMON NAME

Bogbean

FAMILY

Menyanthaceae

AUTHORITY

Menyanthes trifoliata Tournef.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

As the common name indicates the plant looks superficially similar to a broad bean, with three lobed leaves held above shallow water by long, fleshy stalks. In summer spikes of white (pinkish) flowers occur above the water

DISTRIBUTION

Nationally eradicated, only known from two sites, Racecourse Hill near Darfield, Canterbury and Queenstown, Otago.

HABITAT

Only found in an ornamental pond and irrigation race in New Zealand, found in nutrient poor waters in native range.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling emergent perennial herb. Leaves of three leaflets (like the leaves of broad bean) at the end of stems. Leaflets are elliptical to obovate, 3-10 cm long, 1-5 cm wide, entire or sometimes coarsely toothed. Leaves are all basal, with the petiole bases arranged alternately on the creeping stem. Flowers have five petals, pinkish-white in colour, with long white hairs on the top surface. Flowers are about 2.5 cm across. The seed capsule contains shiny yellow-brown buoyant seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

None.

FLOWERING

October - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Spreads by seeds, stem extension, and fragmentation, Can establish rapidly from stem fragments. Seeds have not been seen in the field in New Zealand.



Menyanthes trifoliata. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.



Menyanthes trifoliata. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

YEAR NATURALISED

1976

ORIGIN

Native to temperate Northern Hemisphere.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Notify the relevant regional council if found

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

WSDE (2001). An aquatic plant identification manual for Washington's freshwater plants. Washington State Department of Ecology, 195pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/menyanthes-trifoliata/>