

Trapa natans

COMMON NAME

water chestnut

FAMILY

Trapaceae

AUTHORITY

Trapa natans L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Lakes, ponds, canals, and slow water. Not known to NZ but a major weed overseas (Paul Champion NIWA)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Water chestnut has broad, toothed, diamond-shaped upper leaves which form tight floating rosettes. The leaves connect to the stem by swollen stalks just below the leaf blades. The thin limp stems give rise to long, narrow or feather-shaped underwater leaves and are rooted in the sediment. The fruit is a hard, woody nut with two to four sharp spines.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished by clusters of toothed, diamond-shaped floating leaves.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

YEAR NATURALISED

Not in NZ

ORIGIN

Asia

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/trapa-natans/>

