

Salvinia molesta

giant salvinia



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Appearance: Free floating fern; stems rootless, hairy, about 10 cm long.

Leaves: Borne in threes; appear 2-ranked, but with 3rd leaf finely dissected and dangling, resembling roots; rounded to somewhat broadly elliptical, to 2 cm long, with cordate base, upper surface with 4-pronged hairs joined at the tips (resembling an egg beater), lower surface hairy.

Spores: In a nutlike sporocarp (a multicellular structure), trailing beneath.

Ecological threat:

Spreads rapidly and prolifically into a monoculture which can shade out underwater natives, leaving large bare bottom areas.



Distribution: C, SW

Field Notations

SALVMOLE/SAM05

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>