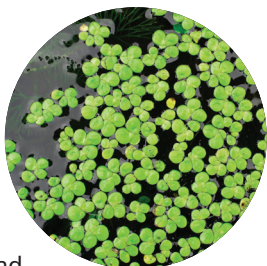


NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

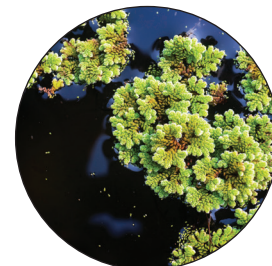
Duckweed (*Lemna aequinoctialis*)

This small native plant can sometimes be confused for an algal bloom as it is bright green and has the appearance of green spots floating on the water surface. It is common and widespread throughout most of Queensland in still fresh water. It is excellent food for birds, tadpoles, and fish. It is spread readily via birds from one waterhole to another and is not generally regarded as a problem.



Ferny Azolla (*Azolla pinnata*)

A small free-floating native aquatic fern, the very small leaves turn red in full sunlight. It is usually found covering the surface of slow-moving water bodies. The presence of Azolla is generally beneficial and provides good grazing for vegetarian species of fish.



Water Primrose (*Ludwigia sp.*)

Water primrose is a native herb that occurs most commonly throughout coastal Queensland. It is a perennial, sprawling herb with a shallow rooting habit most common on the moist and boggy margins of permanent water bodies. Flowers are bright yellow and can be seen between October to April.



Velvet Knotweed (*Persicaria attenuate*)

Persicaria is a native annual herb with stem growing to a height of 20 to 70cm. It grows mainly around the edges of the wetlands and sediment basins. While it appears to encroach into the water body from the edge it dies off annually and doesn't permanently establish in the wetland.



Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

This is a native species with a wide distribution in Australia and overseas. Due to its growth habit, it can become weedy under very productive conditions (high nutrients and high light), but under normal growth is part of a healthy aquatic system. It provides habitat for many small fish larvae, as well as invertebrates, and it is effective in removing excess nutrients, reducing the risk for algal blooms.



Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*)

A groundcover around parts of the lake, this perennial herb-like fern is widespread throughout inland Queensland and provides habitat for frogs. It is a food source for several aquatic birds. It has a high starch content and is a bushtucker for indigenous Australians. The pods can be ground between stones to remove the hard husks, making flour. This was mixed with water to make dough which can be baked on hot coals resulting in Nardoo Cakes.

