

Invasive Species Alert

Water Chestnut

(*Trapa natans*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Green, floating leaves with sharply serrated edges
- Leaves form a densely crowded rosette
- Small, white 4-petaled flowers
- Produce a hard “woody” nut surrounded by sharp barbed spines



Michigan DNR

Habitat: While water chestnut shows a preference for shallow, nutrient-rich lakes and rivers, it can grow in mucky substrate.



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Native Range: Europe, Asia, and Africa

U.S. Distribution: Naturalized in the northeastern United States

Local Concern: Water chestnut forms dense mats that shade out native aquatic vegetation, leading to a decrease in biodiversity. Decomposition of vegetation below a dense mat decreases oxygen levels and can cause fish kills. Boating and other recreational activities become almost impossible in an area invaded by water chestnut.

Other Common Names:
European water chestnut,
horned water chestnut,
water caltrop

Potential Means of Introduction: Aquarium and water garden releases

To report this species, visit www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies for contact information. Report online at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone