

Invasive Species Alert

Water Soldier

(*Stratiotes aloides*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Submerged aquatic plant, becomes buoyant during summer
- Leaves are 40 cm long, sword-shaped, sharply serrated edges, bright green
- Leaves form a large rosette
- Roots may or may not be attached to mud
- Looks similar to an aloe plant, spider plant, or top of a pineapple
- May produce a showy white flower with 3 petals

Habitat: This aquatic perennial plant inhabits freshwater bodies like ponds, lakes, and rivers.

Native Range: Europe and northwest Asia

Local Concern: Dense mats of vegetation can form to crowd out native species and decrease biodiversity. Water soldier can potentially alter water chemistry and could harm other aquatic organisms. Mats also hinder recreational activities and the sharp edges of this plant can cut swimmers.



Photo: Saxifraga - Branko Bakan



Photo: Saxifraga – Jan Van Der Straaten

Other Common Names: Water pineapple, water aloe

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