

Invasive Species Alert

GIANT SALVINIA

(SALVINIA MOLESTA, AURICULATA, BILOBA, OR HERZOGII)

PROHIBITED IN MICHIGAN

IDENTIFICATION:

- Floating leaves are oblong, ½ to 1 ½ inches long, and vary from green to gold to brown.
- Leaves have arched, white hairs resembling egg beaters.
- Submerged fern fronds are stringy and root-like, but the plant has no real roots.
- Leaves of mature plants grow vertically and curl, creating a chain-like structure.

HABITAT: This free-floating aquatic fern can grow in almost any water system including lakes, streams, ditches and wetlands.

NATIVE RANGE: Brazil.

U.S. DISTRIBUTION: Southern states as far north as Virginia, also Hawaii.



MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION: Not detected in Michigan.

LOCAL CONCERN: Giant salvinia forms chains of leaves that link together into thick mats on the water's surface. These mats restrict light and oxygen, shading native plants and organisms and disrupting ecosystems. Giant salvinia reproduces from plant parts and can be transported by waterfowl or boats.



REPORT THIS SPECIES: Visit [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

Photos courtesy of Robert Videki, Doronicum Kft.
Bugwood.org (top); Barry Rice, sarracenia.com,
Bugwood.org (middle); Troy Evans, Great Smoky Mountains
National Park, Bugwood.org (bottom).