

# Invasive Species Alert

## African Oxygen Weed

(*Lagarosiphon major*)

\*Not detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Submerged aquatic plant
- Dark green, alternating leaves curl downward
- Form dense mats up to 3 feet thick
- Stems grow up to 20 feet long with 'j' shaped curve

**Habitat:** African oxygen weed inhabits freshwater lakes and slow flowing rivers. Cool water and abundant light are preferred.

**Native Range:** South Africa

**Local Concern:** Dense mats of African oxygen weed impede other aquatic organisms by decreasing oxygen levels, increasing pH levels, decreasing sunlight penetration, increasing decomposition of dead plants, and reducing biodiversity. Recreation is also extremely limited in infested areas.

**Potential Means of Introduction:** Escape from aquarium and water garden industry, spread by water current or boats



Photo: Robert Videki, Doronicum Kft.



Photo: Rohan Wells, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research

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