

Invasive Species Alert

Giant Salvinia

(*Salvinia molesta*, *auriculata*, *biloba*, or *herzogii*)

Not detected in Michigan

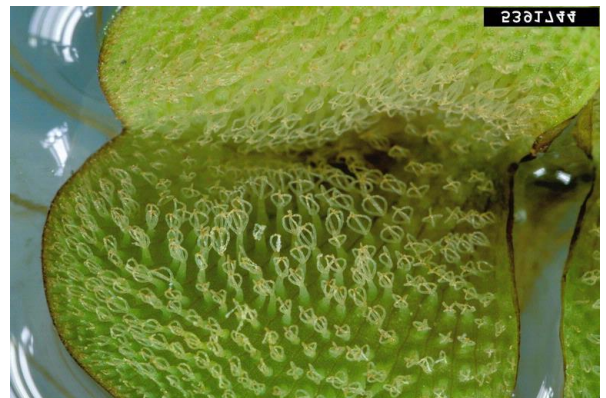
Identification:

- 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.



Troy Evans, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Bugwood.org



Barry Rice, Sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org



5396833

Robert Videcki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

Native Range: Brazil

U.S. Distribution:

Southern states as far north as Virginia, also Hawaii.

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 out native plants and organisms and disrupting ecosystems. Giant salvinia reproduces from plant parts and can be transported by waterfowl or boats.

Report this species at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone