

AMAZON FROGBIT

Limnobium laevigatum



Family: Hydrocharitaceae

Genus: *Limnobium*

Species: *laevigatum*

Common Names: South American Spongeplant and Amazon or Smooth Frogbit

Native Location: Central and South America

Height: 50cm **Width:** 1-8cm

Growth Rate: Very fast

Naturalised Status: Alien to Western Australia

Limnobium laevigatum, or **Amazon Frogbit**, is a floating plant that is reminiscent of a large duckweed (*Lemna minor*). It is native to Central and South America and can be found growing wild in lakes, ponds and slow rivers. Since this species is far more tolerant of extreme temperatures, it has become increasingly more common in cultivation.

The **GROWTH HABIT** of *L. laevigatum* is similar to that of most other floating plants. The floating rosettes send runners out into the water, the ends of which form juvenile plants. A large mat of runners and adult plants can develop very quickly, which in turn can result in the unwelcome shading of plants growing below. The juvenile plants have a great capacity for distribution in that they are small, and they float, and can be easily and quickly carried along by water currents.

Amazon Frogbit was first *discovered* in the Liege Street Wetland in Cannington in January 2013. These potentially serious invasive weeds are sold as aquarium and pond plants and it appears they are being disposed of by residents, either directly into our waterways, or indirectly through the storm water drainage system, which leads to natural wetlands and waterways.



For more information please contact:

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

Phone: 9458 5664

Website: www.sercul.org.au

Source:

www.aquaticplantcentral.com/forumapc/plantfinder/details.php?id=61

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limnobium_laevigatum


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OTHER AQUATIC WEEDS

to watch out for

There are many serious aquatic weed threats found in the Swan Canning region to be aware of:



Bacopa
Bacopa monnieri



Hydrocotyl
Hydrocotyle ranunculoides
Declared Species



Sagittaria
Sagittaria platyphylla
Declared Species, WoNS



Water hyacinth
Eichhornia crassipes
Declared Species, WoNS



Taro
Colocasia esculenta



Salvinia
Salvinia molesta
Declared Species, WoNS

Declared species must be eradicated if found.
WoNS are Weeds of National Significance.

For more information on these aquatic weeds please see:
www.agric.wa.gov.au
www.weeds.org.au