

THE THREAT IS REAL

Amazon frogbit poses a real threat to Western Australian freshwater environments as it reproduces prolifically through both seed and vegetative division.

One single leaf can grow roots and begin reproducing vegetatively. Each plant can produce multiple seed pods with each pod containing 20–30 seeds that germinate readily and are viable for at least three years.

The plant and seeds are easily transported in flowing water. It is known to form dense mats across waterways with up to 2000–2500 plants per square metre. These dense mats congest drains and waterways, displace native vegetation and greatly impact water quality and habitat for native wildlife.



This is a juvenile plant, mature leaves can grow up to 15cm in length



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Prevention and early detection are key to managing Amazon frogbit. If you see a plant in a waterway you do not recognise, getting it properly identified is important. Take a photo and send it to the website or app 'MyPestGuide', select 'Amazon frogbit' under the 'Send report' option.
- Do not empty aquarium or pond water into the stormwater network or waterways.
- Aquatic plants that are no longer wanted can be put into a black plastic bag and left in the sun to solarise. They can then be composted or put into a rubbish bin.
- If you notice Amazon frogbit being sold report it through the website or app 'MyPestGuide'.

AMAZON FROGBIT IS NOW A DECLARED PEST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**Report it on the
'MyPestGuide' App**

mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter/#/



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

For more information contact:

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AMAZON FROGBIT
Limnobium laevigatum

A WEED TO WATCH OUT FOR!
Amazon frogbit is now a declared pest in WA



FACTS

Family: Hydrocharitaceae

Genus: *Limnobium* **Species:** *laevigatum*

Common names: Amazon or Smooth frogbit, South American Spongeplant

Origin: Central and South America

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

Distinguishing features: Each leaf has a lime green smooth surface with the underside having a distinctly bloated appearance when juvenile which decreases in the adult form. This sponge like bulge is formed by enlarged cells in the centre of the leaf, which enable the plant to float.



Flowers are small, white and unisexual



Seed pods contain 20-30 seeds



Distinctly enlarged bulge under the leaf of a juvenile plant



Within densely packed adult plants the underside bulge is not so distinct, but cells are enlarged



Young plant floating amongst pond weed



Adult plants can form a dense mat

***Limnobium laevigatum*, commonly referred to as Amazon frogbit, is a floating aquatic plant that has been distributed for use in private ponds and aquariums, being promoted as an easy-to-maintain plant.** However, when allowed to enter waterways Amazon frogbit is a highly invasive species with a rapid growth rate and high reproduction potential. This species has the potential to result in significant environmental and economic costs. Amazon frogbit was initially discovered in Western Australian waterways in 2013 in Liege St. Wetlands (City of Canning). Since then multiple outbreaks have occurred around the Perth Metropolitan Area. Each infestation has been an isolated incident thought to be resulting from residents inappropriately disposing of their aquarium or pond plants into the stormwater network or directly into the waterway.



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