

## EUROPEAN FROGBIT

*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*  
Origin: Europe

### INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

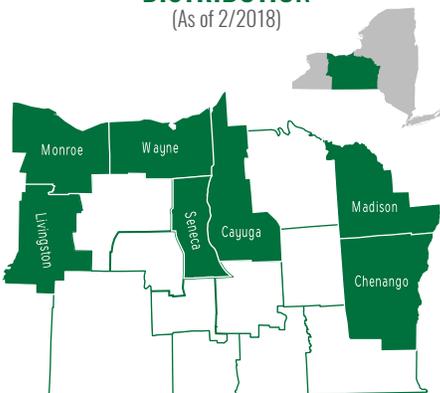
Very High

### MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Mechanical  
Physical  
Prevention

### DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



[www.fingerlakesinvasives.org](http://www.fingerlakesinvasives.org)

European frogbit is a free-floating annual aquatic plant. The leaves are small, kidney or heart shaped (1.5-6.5 cm long), and leathery, with undersides that may be dark purple. The plant is not anchored to bottom sediments. Three-petaled white flowers with yellow centers bloom in summer. The leaf stem of European frogbit lacks a midline groove, which distinguishes it from American frogbit (*Limnobium spongia*). European frogbit leaves, although smaller in size, may resemble those of white and yellow water lilies.

### HABITAT

European frogbit grows well in quiet, open waters including marshes, ditches, swamps, and sheltered coves. This species grows well in calcium rich waters.

### THREAT

European frogbit has rapid vegetative spread and forms dense mats, which can crowd out other macrophytes and limit light penetration into the water column. With limited light below the vegetative mats, native plants may not be able to survive, limiting native biodiversity. It can also inhibit recreational use such as swimming, fishing, or boating.

### MANAGEMENT

The best management strategy is prevention through education and stewardship. As this species is most commonly spread through fishing and boating equipment, it is important to use precautions such as cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and other aquatic equipment before moving to another water body. Hand-pulling or harvesting may be an effective management strategy for small infestations or infestations in closed systems such as ponds. High density shade treatments can reduce biomass. European frogbit is also susceptible to some herbicides.

**REFERENCE** - U.S. Geological Survey. [2017]. Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database Gainesville, Florida. Accessed [6/8/2017].