



WATER CHESTNUT

Trapa natans
Origin: Eurasia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

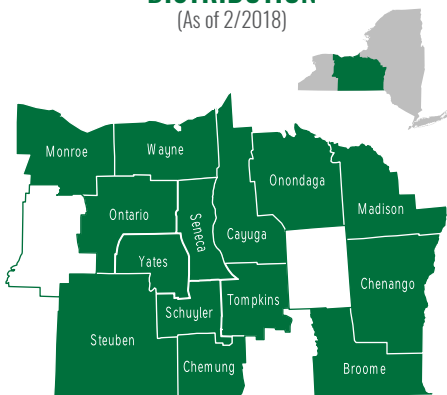
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Mechanical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org



Water chestnut is a floating-leaved, annual, aquatic plant. Linear, oppositely arranged submersed leaves are replaced by feathery adventitious roots early in the growing season. On the water surface, the plant forms a rosette of green, glossy, triangular floating leaves with toothed edges and inflated petioles. Plant stems are cord-like and can grow up to 5 m. Small, white, four-petaled flowers bloom from the center of the rosette during the summer, eventually producing large, four-spined seeds.

HABITAT

Water chestnut grows best in quiet, shallow, high nutrient water bodies with a soft bottom substrate. They prefer waters with an alkaline or neutral pH.

THREAT

Populations of this species can form very dense mats of interlocking and stacking rosettes. These thick mats completely shade the water column and suppress most other aquatic plant growth in the area. Dense mats also inhibit boating, swimming, and fishing. The seeds are painful when stepped upon.

MANAGEMENT

Small populations can be controlled by hand pulling the plants prior to seed maturation. Large infestations have been controlled by the use of mechanical harvesters or the application of aquatic herbicides. Biocontrol options are in development. As always, 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.

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