

# Seen this plant? Water poppy

*Hydrocleys nymphoides*



## How does this weed affect us?

Water poppy forms dense infestations that can:

- Obstruct waterways.
- Reduce light and oxygen levels of water bodies.
- Outcompete native aquatic species.
- Create a monocultured ecosystem and reduce biodiversity.
- Limit water flow and increase flood risk.
- Limit water access for recreational use.
- Obstruct and damage irrigation equipment.

**Seen it? Call us:**

**Cootamundra-Gundagai  
Biosecurity Officer:**  
1300 459 689

**NSW DPI Biosecurity  
Helpline:**  
1800 680 244

**Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.**

**For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:**

**<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/WaterPoppy>**

## Where are you likely to find it?

Water poppy is a weed in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. It was introduced to Australia as an ornamental pond plant. Water poppy can tolerate both warm temperate and subtropical climates. Plants grow faster in warm locations. And although they tolerate cool conditions they do not tolerate frost. It is mainly found in still to slow moving water bodies up to 2 metres deep. It grows best in full sun and shallow, nutrient rich waterways but will also grow in shade. Plants can be found in waterways, lakes, swamps, shallow ponds, drainage channels and farm dams.

## What does it look like?

Water poppy is a perennial water weed with floating and emergent leaves. Stems can be up to several metres long. Leaves, roots and flower stems grow from nodes along the stem. Leaves are dark green, shiny and are oval to heart-shaped (13.5cm long and 12cm wide). They form rosettes that float on the surface or emerge up to 40cm above the water. Flowers are pale yellow with a brown-purple centre that resemble a common "poppy" shape. They are 5-8cm wide and are held above the water on stalks up to 30cm long. Main flowering period is from November to April (warm season). Stems float below the water surface and form tangled mats. The root system arises from nodes on the stems and anchors in mud along shallower water edges. Broken/dislodged root fragments generates new plants and aids spread of the species. Visit NSW Weed Wise for further information.



### Biosecurity Duty \*Riverina\* (**Prevention**)

*Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant. A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant. Notify local control authority if found. Your local biosecurity weeds officer can help to identify, advise on control, and how to remove this weed.*



**Seen it? Call us:**

**Cootamundra-Gundagai  
Biosecurity Officer:**  
**1300 459 689**

**NSW DPI Biosecurity  
Helpline:**  
**1800 680 244**

**Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.**

**For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:**

**<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/WaterPoppy>**