

MEXICAN WATER LILY

Nymphaea mexicana

7098 - August 2022

Management programme

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
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Impacts

Economic	Biodiversity	Soil resources	Water quantity/quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	Amenity/recreation	Animal welfare

Objectives

Contain and progressively reduce the amount of Mexican water lily and the number of locations that have it, to reduce its impacts in the Waikato region.

Why is it a pest?

Mexican water lily can occupy the surfaces of lakes and other slow flowing shallow water bodies, growing rapidly to potentially cover them. It displaces native species by forming dense mats of floating leaves, restricting light penetration to sub-surface species and out-competing surface species. It can clog waterways, restricting water flow and obstructing recreational water users. It may impact on the mauri of wai māori. Rhizomes, tubers and seeds of Mexican water lily are readily dispersed by water, and fragments can be spread by boats, fishing gear or machinery, or by planting.

Responsibility for control

Waikato Regional Council is responsible for the control of Mexican water lily within the Waikato region. If you think you've seen it, call us – don't try to control it yourself.

- All occupiers are encouraged to report sightings of Mexican water lily on their properties (rule MWL-1 of the *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032*) and to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council in areas where control programmes are in place.
- If Mexican water lily is present on a property that is to be subdivided or developed, there are additional rules and requirements that apply under section 6.6 of the RPMP 2022-2032.

Mexican water lily is banned from being sold, propagated, distributed, or included in commercial displays.

More information

- Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032 – waikatoregion.govt.nz/RPMP
- Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032 – waikatoregion.govt.nz/biosecurity-strategy

The following publications are available from Waikato Regional Council.

- National Pest Plant Accord (manual of plants banned from sale, propagation and distribution) (free)
- Plant Me Instead! (Plants to use in place of pest plants) (free)

What does it look like?



Flowers

- Star-shaped floating pale-yellow flowers (to 15cm across) that close at night.
- Petals are many veined.
- Flowers from October to December.

Fruit/seed

- Green berries, which grow underwater that produce seeds (2mm-3mm long).



Leaves/stems

- Large, flat, mostly round, leathery, spotted floating leaves (to 20cm across).
- Mature leaves have brown blotches on upper surface, mainly pink-purple beneath.
- Main vein of the leaf protrudes on the underside of the leaf.
- Fleshy stems (stolons) bear banana-shaped tubers.