

Water Chestnut

Trapa natans

Habitat: Aquatic, Freshwater

Family name: *Lythraceae*

Common Names: buffalo nut, bat nut, devil pod, ling nut, lin kok, ling kio nut, or singhara.



Water Chestnut - *Trapa natans* stand

Description: The species are floating annual aquatic plants, growing in slow-moving water up to 5 m deep, native to warm temperate parts of Eurasia and Africa.



Water Chestnut

They bear ornately shaped fruits, which resemble the head of a bull or the silhouette of a flying bat. Each fruit contains a single very large, starchy seed.



Water Chestnut Rosette

It has a rosette of floating, fan-shaped leaves, each leaf having a slightly inflated petiole (*leaf stem 5–9 cm long*) which provide added buoyancy for the

leafy portion and dentate (*tooth-like*) leaf margins. Leaves can be ovoid or triangular in shape, 2–3 cm long.

Water Chestnut has two types of leaves, finely divided, feather-like submerged leaves borne along the length of the stem, and undivided floating leaves borne in a rosette at the water's surface.



Water Chestnut Flower

Solitary, small, white flowers with four petals sprout in the centre of the rosette form in early summer and are insect-pollinated.



Water Chestnut Rosette & Flower



Water Chestnut Pond Invasion

The plant spreads by the rosettes and fruits detaching from the stem and floating to another area on currents or by fruits clinging to objects, and animals.



Water Chestnut Stand



Water Chestnut Fruit

Water Chestnut has a submerged, flexuous stem, up to 4m in length and roots that anchor into the mud and extend upwards to the surface of the water.



Water Chestnut Diagram



Water Chestnut Roots

The fruit is a nut with four 1-cm, barbed spines.

Seeds can remain viable up to 12 years, although most germinate within the first two years.



Water Chestnut Fruit