

# Brazilian Waterweed

## *Egeria densa*

**Habitat:** Aquatic, freshwater  
**Family name:** *Hydrocharitaceae*  
**Common Name/s:** Large-flowered waterweed, Brazilian waterweed



Brazilian Waterweed Stand

Brazilian Waterweed is a submerged perennial that can live either rooted or free floating.

The plant can grow very rapidly under suitable conditions, stems are approximately 3 mm thick and can reach lengths of between 1.8 to 3 m but are commonly less than 1 m long.

Stems are erect, cylindrical, sparsely branched, with short inter-nodes and grow until they reach the water surface.



Brazilian waterweed flower

Plants usually have four leaves per node but can also have up to 5 or 6. (can be as many as ten leaves at a fertile node.) Inter-node length ranges from 2.5 to 24 mm,

depending on nutrients and light availability. Short inter-nodes tend to give the plant a 'leafy' appearance.

The stem system of the plant will grow until it reaches the surface of the water, where it will begin to spread out, creating a thick flower canopy that blocks light from reaching plants below it.



Brazilian Waterweed

**Reproduction:** reproduces vegetatively through branching and fragmentation.



Brazilian Waterweed leaves



Brazilian Waterweed flower

Dispersal relies on the presence of vectors that transport fragments to new locations.

The most important vectors of secondary dispersal, apart from water current, are related to human activity e.g. boats, anglers, weed harvesters, shoes and clothing.

The species is deciduous, (*male & female flowers on separate plants*); flowers are 12–20 mm diameter, with 3 broad, rounded, white petals, male: 8–10 mm long, female 6–7 mm long.

### Waterweed Species Identification

