

What to do if you find water chestnut...

- This is a priority noxious weed! Report suspect plants to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately.
- Document site locations using either local landmarks or GPS coordinates. This information is essential to confirm identification.
- Small infestations may be removed by hand, but all rosettes should be collected to prevent further spread. Bag all plant material and throw in the garbage bin. Do not place with yard debris or compost.
- Prevent the spread of aquatic invaders by thoroughly cleaning all boat trailers, fishing gear, and other water recreational equipment of all plant parts and mud.

Don't let water chestnut get a foothold in Oregon!

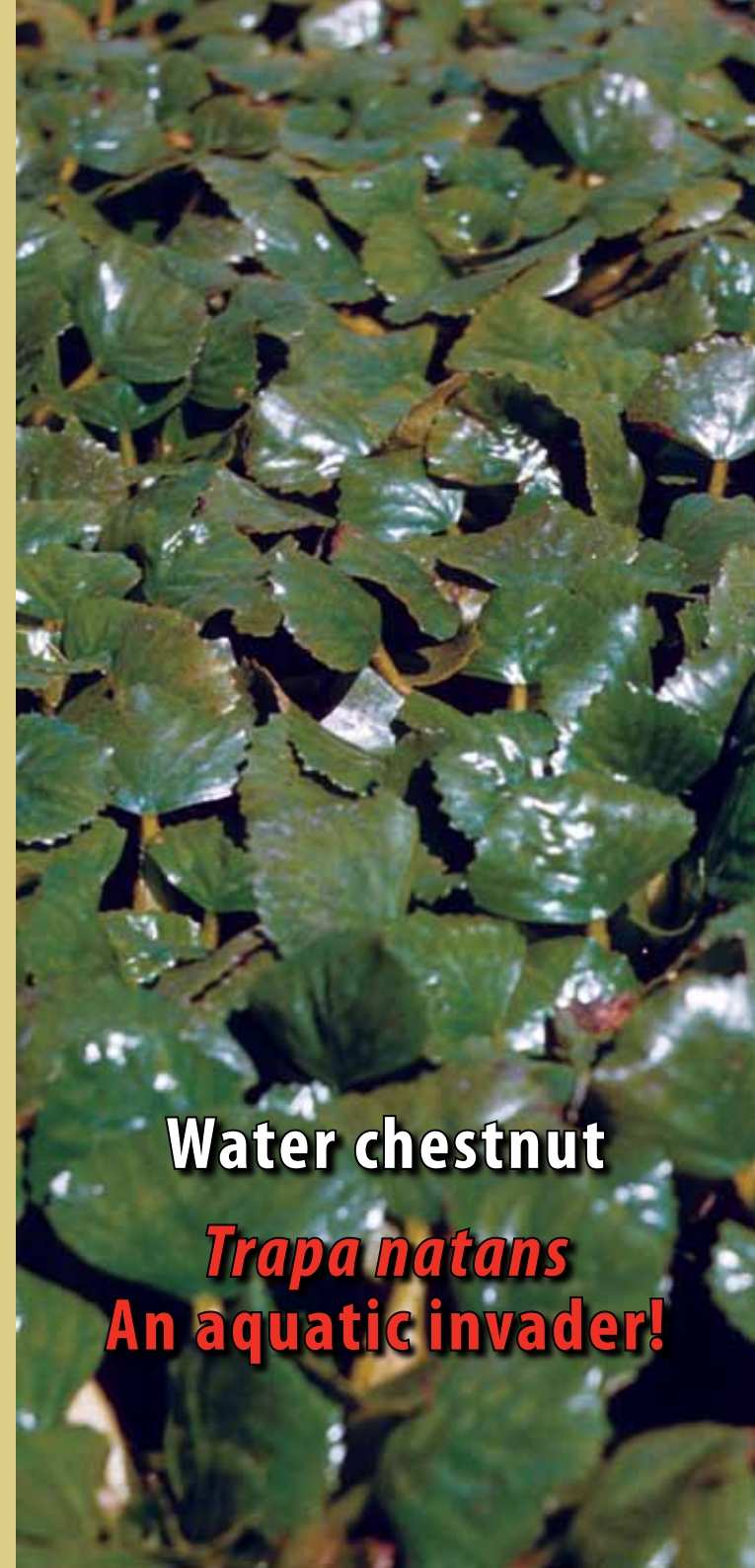
Report suspect sites to

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621 or call

1-866-INVADER



**Oregon Department
of Agriculture**
Plant Division
Noxious Weed Control Program
695 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532



Water chestnut

Trapa natans
An aquatic invader!



What is water chestnut?

This non-native plant grows in slow moving nutrient-rich waters like ponds, lakes, and shallow streams. Introduced as an ornamental plant in the late 1800s, water chestnut has since spread to many locations in the northeastern United States. This plant has not been found in Oregon, but could readily become established if introduced.



What does water chestnut do?

Water chestnut forms dense mats at the surface which displace native plants, interfere with recreational uses, and limit light penetration and water mixing. Decaying plant material can lower oxygen levels, cause fish kills, and rapid sedimentation. Spiked nuts are of no value to wildlife and may injure bare feet when they drift ashore.



How does water chestnut spread?

Water chestnut regenerates annually from spined nut-like seeds produced the previous year. Each seed is viable for up to 12 years and can give rise to 10-15 plants. Water chestnut can easily colonize an entire waterbody in just a few years. Plant fragments can also be spread by water, boats, or waterfowl to new locations.



NO KNOWN LOCATIONS IN OREGON
ALERT: PLEASE CALL 1-866-INVADER IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE FOUND THIS SPECIES.



How can you identify water chestnut?

This plant grows in up to 15 feet of water and forms dense, floating mats, often three layers deep. Leaves may be floating or submerged. Floating leaves are triangular, up to two inches and have sharp pointed teeth on the margins. The upper leaf surface is glossy and the underside is covered with soft hairs. Leaves are arranged in a rosette that sits on the water surface. Submersed leaves are coarsely feather-like, growing up to 6 inches. Tiny white flowers emerge and produce hard, woody, nut-like fruits typically with four sharp barbs. Because of these characteristic features, water chestnut is not easily confused with other aquatic plants.

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT>
and <http://www.clr.pdx.edu>
06/2011

Photographs: Richard A. Howard, Image Collection, Smithsonian Institution; J. Randall, The Nature Conservancy; V. H. Morgan, Portland State University; L.J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut.
Prepared by Center for Lakes & Reservoirs, Portland State University and Oregon Department of Agriculture.
Funded by Oregon Department of Agriculture.
Contact 503-986-4621 for more information.

