



Salvinia molesta

The Kariba weed

Where does it come from?

Salvinia molesta D. S. Mitch., Kariba weed is native to South America and was introduced to South Africa as an ornamental pond plant that is now invading all water bodies, both slow and fast flowing systems in frost free areas.



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What does it look like?

Kariba weed is perennial, mat-forming, free-floating plant with rhizomes 60-250mm long. Leaves unwettable, velvety due to specialized leaf hairs that trap air bubbles. Modified feathery, root-like leaves hang in water. Leaves tend to fold together.



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Why the perfect weed?

Kariba weed reproduces vegetatively by fragmentation. It got its name after invading Lake Kariba in 1959 within record time. One of the most troublesome aquatic species in tropical and subtropical areas.



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What does it do?

Salvinia causes major impacts on water use. Reduces flow in drainage canals, interferes with navigation of boats and fishing activities and other recreational activities. Displaces indigenous vegetation and adversely impacts fish populations. Economic and tourism impacts can be staggering. Biocontrol available *Cyrtobagous salviniae*. Provides breeding places for Carriers of malaria and bilharzia.



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Keys.lucidcentral.org

How do we work?

Working for water considers the development of people as an essential element of the continued protection of our valued resources. Short term contract jobs are created through clearing activities with the emphasis on 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disabled. By creating an enabling environment for skills training, it is investing in the development of communities.

Who is fighting the problem?

The working for water programme spearheads this fight against IAP's. The programme was launched in 1995 and is administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs, in partnership with the department of Agriculture and other key partners.



D. Sharp

YOU AND THE LAW

Our laws relating to IAP's are aimed at:

- Preventing introductions of potential invasive species
 - Managing species that have become invasive in the country
1. Unlawful to bring alien species into SA Without a permit
 2. Unlawful to sell certain IAP's
 3. Unlawful to have certain IAP's on property
 4. Unlawful to grow certain IAP's in sensitive areas (wetlands, riparian)

Further information:

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