

Myriophyllum aquaticum

The bad Parrot



1

Where does it come from?

Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verdc., Parrots feather originates from South America. It was introduced into South Africa as an ornamental pond plant. Parrots feather invades all water bodies, fast and slow flowing



D. Sharp



D. Sharp

What does it look like?

It is a rooted aquatic plant with stems reaching 3m long Terminal leafy shoots emerging 0.2-0.5m above the water surface. Unbranched Leaves are feathery occurring in whorls. Flowers are solitary and inconspicuous in leaf axils many long roots arise in nodes on the stems.



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Why is it bad?

Plants root in mudbanks and shallow water to form a dense tangle of stems and roots. Reproduces by stem fragmentation. Plants are sterile but are spread by floods, animals, boats and other recreational activities.



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What does it do?

Parrots feather invades shallow systems, hinders stream flow, clogs water inlets, interferes with fishing and fish cultures, navigation and can cause drowning of animals and humans. Flourishes in clear, polluted and slightly brackish water. There is biocontrol available - *Lysathia* species.



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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.



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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.

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)



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