



# Pond Check

## Information & Management



### LARGE-FLOWERED WATERWEED (*Egeria densa*)



Photo: Environment Agency

#### Information

Large flowered waterweed, also known as Brazilian waterweed, has escaped from cultivation and now grows in many warm temperate subtropical regions of the world. Although there are only scattered records in Britain to date, it is widely sold as an oxygenator for aquariums and garden ponds and therefore its occurrence in the countryside is likely to increase. Climate change may also benefit this species as waters warm. It forms dense, submerged vegetation growing from depths of five metres to reach the water surface. It grows in ponds, lakes and slow flowing watercourses. Infestations can reduce the occurrence of native species and increase the risk of flooding by blocking watercourses.

Dense growth can impede recreational activity such as angling and boating.

Large flowered waterweed spreads by dispersal of stem fragments which can generate new plants. Fragments can be spread in flowing water, in mud or when moving plants or animals between ponds. Fragments can contaminate equipment and be transferred to other sites.

#### Management

This plant should be removed from garden ponds and aquariums and carefully disposed of. Where possible, it is advisable to section off the infestation with a fragment proof fence/ barrier to prevent wider spread of fragments when carrying out any maintenance that causes

disturbance. Repeated control may be required but avoid carrying out pond maintenance during the breeding season for birds, fish and invertebrates.

Always inspect and clean equipment to prevent transferring material.

### **Manual**

*Infestations should be pulled or raked out by hand. Make sure that any fragments are scooped up and removed to prevent re-establishment.*

*Shading areas with an opaque material such as thick black polythene or carpet for prolonged periods may be effective but be careful that this does not deplete the water of oxygen by only partially shading the pond.*

*Always ensure that nutrient levels are controlled to prevent excessive growth*

### **Chemical**

*There are no approved herbicides for the treatment of submerged plants*

### **Disposal**

Removed vegetation should be composted either on your own compost heap or via a civic amenity waste disposal site. A hot compost heap will destroy plant fragments. The composting material should be covered to

retain heat and prevent material inadvertently being distributed to the wider environment. Alternatively, place on a membrane, allow to dry and then burn.

If you are concerned about removing wildlife with the vegetation make sure you rinse it off either by swilling it around the pond or in a separate bucket of pond water. You can leave the vegetation by the side of the pond to allow wildlife to re-enter but this should be transferred after a couple of days to prevent nutrients entering the pond.

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Remove your invasive species	Dump in the countryside
Compost	Dispose of down the drain or in a watercourse
Burn	Transfer plants or animals between ponds
	Give surplus pond plant to friends

### **FURTHER GUIDANCE ON NON NATIVE SPECIES**

[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

visit: [www.ercis.co.uk/projects/investigate\\_invasives/pondcheck/](http://www.ercis.co.uk/projects/investigate_invasives/pondcheck/)

contact: [pondcheck@cornwt.demon.co.uk](mailto:pondcheck@cornwt.demon.co.uk)



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