

# Nardoo

*Marsilea mutica*

## Family

Marsileaceae (nardoo)

## Also known as

Water fern, Australian water clover

## Where is it originally from?

Australia, New Caledonia

## What does it look like?

Floating aquatic fern with four-lobed frond that looks like a four-leaved clover (< cm diameter), floating flat on the water surface or held up on leaf stalks from damp ground; stalks can grow to 1 m long when submerged. Fronds may have red-purple markings which divide the lobes into inner and outer zones of green or a simple two-tone green pattern. Takes root in the soil but mature plants can detach from the soil and form large free-floating 'rafts'

## Are there any similar species?

Nardoo can be distinguished from other water ferns/water clovers (*Marsilea* species) by its two-tone green leaf pattern.

## Why is it weedy?

Forms dense mats on the surface of waterways, and rapidly creeps around the edges of waterbodies and wetlands.

## How does it spread?

Spreads by rhizomes, and by wind and water movement of free-floating 'rafts' of vegetation.

## What damage does it do?

Shades out native, bottom-rooted aquatic plants, and competes with small native plants in wetlands and around lake edges. It can negatively affect recreational use of waterbodies.

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Wetlands, ponds, calm lake edges in full sun to part shade.

## What can I do to get rid of it?

Contact your regional council for more information on responsibility for control and methods to use.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: John Clayton



Photo: Trevor James



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