

# Swamp lily

## *Ottelia ovalifolia*

### Family

Hydrocharitaceae (frogbit)

### Also known as

Ottelia

### Where is it originally from?

Australia

### What does it look like?

Surface-floating, bottom-rooted perennial with fibrous roots instead of tubers, rhizomes or runners. Leaves emerge from the root base; ribbon-like submerged juvenile leaves are transparent, and mature leaves (<16 x 6 cm) that float on the water surface are oval, glossy green and fleshy, with 5-7 parallel veins and many cross veins. Solitary, fragile, 3-petalled flowers (5 cm diameter) are white with orange base (Dec-Mar) and there are also closed underwater flowers. Seed capsules (2-5 cm long) contain many seeds.

### Are there any similar species?

Cape pondweed (*Aponogeton distachyus*) is very common, floating leaves 15 x 2 cm, flower a forked white spike. Water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*) has fleshy leaves and bright yellow flowers.

### Why is it weedy?

Seeds freely, grows in water up to 3 m deep. Forms mats on water surface. Tolerant to hot-cool temperatures. Minor weed, only occasional problem.

### How does it spread?

Seed is spread via water flow, contaminated diggers, and probably birds, from ponds, farm dams, and intentional plantings.

### What damage does it do?

Can cover still or slow-moving water. Blocks light to native plants below. Impedes oxygenation by wind, affecting water fauna and other plants.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Lake margins, shallow ponds, slow streams and rivers.

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

1. Dig or pull out. Mulch. Lowering water level can assist.
2. Overall spray dense mats: glyphosate (200ml/10L + penetrant) - ensure the glyphosate product is permitted for use over water. Requires very still conditions.

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

In some still and sheltered waterbodies (eg ponds), introducing more wind by removing windbreak on prevailing side may check plant.



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



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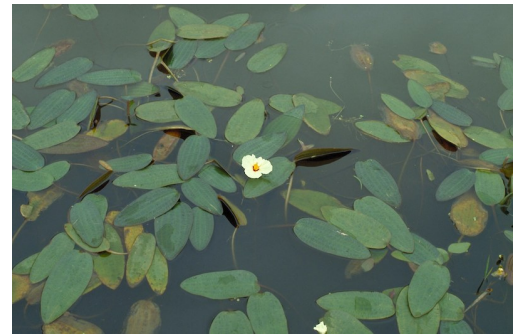


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