Yellow water lily

*Nuphar lutea*

**Family**
Nymphaeaceae (waterlily)

**Also known as**
Spatterdock, cow lily, brandybottle, *Nuphar luteum*, *Nymphaea lutea*

**Where is it originally from?**
Northern temperate regions

**What does it look like?**
Waterlily growing from large, long, spongy rhizomes (up to 10 cm thick), with large (<40 cm x 30 cm), oval, heart-shaped, waxy, floating leaves and thin, lettuce-like submerged leaves. The golden yellow, alcohol-smelling, six-petalled, buttercup-like flower (<6 cm across) held above the water on a stalk, is smaller than flowers of other waterlilies. Green, flask-shaped fruit (2-3 cm long) splits open to release seeds.

**Are there any similar species?**
*Nymphaea* species (including Mexican waterlily) have rounder leaves. Marshwort (*Nymphoides geminata*), fringed waterlily (*N. peltata*) and water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*) have smaller leaves (<10 cm across). None of them have the distinctive large underwater stems of yellow waterlily.

**Why is it weedy?**
Rapid growth rate, covers waterbodies by developing a dense mat of stems.

**How does it spread?**
Seeds and stem fragments are carried by water, boats, fishing gear or machinery.

**What damage does it do?**
Dense growth chokes streams, shallow ponds and lake margins, causing flooding by impeding drainage. Shades out other plants, reduces nutrient availability, and alters the habitat for other organisms.

**Which habitats is it likely to invade?**
Still or slow-flowing water less than 2m deep.

**What can I do to get rid of it?**
Contact your Regional Council if you think you have found this plant.

**What can I do to stop it coming back?**
Monitor the site and pull out or spray any regrowth.