

# Salvinia

## What is it?

Salvinia is an introduced plant that has been used in aquariums and ponds. It has been released into our waterways, and now poses a serious threat to all water bodies in all states and territories.

Described as a free floating aquatic fern, it can be found in still and slow moving waterways and wetlands throughout the region.

Under ideal conditions it can double its size in 5-10 days, and will quickly cover the entire surface of the water. Propagation is by fragmentation of the parent plant, and regeneration from nodes.

## Control Measures

### Physical control:

Salvinia cannot survive away from water. The removal either by hand or machine can be an effective method of control. Drawbacks include the time and effort required to remove large infestations, and possible damage to non-target organisms.

### Biological control:

Insects have been released in this area. Unfortunately they have not developed into sufficient numbers to be of benefit.

### Herbicide control:

There are currently two herbicides registered for the control of Salvinia. These being *Reglone* and *AF 100*. There are several factors to take into account before using herbicides, eg. whether the water is used for stock.

### Salvinia

#### *Salvinia molesta*

A category W 2 weed in all areas. Under the Noxious Weed Act 1993, the weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.



A suggested control program is to erect booms across the dam/wetland and treat one section at a time, allowing each section to clear before treating the next section.

The use of herbicides on or near water is also covered under various acts that are administered by the Environment Protection Authority. You should contact the nearest regional office and request information on the requirements before proceeding with herbicide applications.

### Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2004). Users are reminded of the need to ensure that any product purchased for the control of Salvinia is registered for that purpose. The author cannot take responsibility for any changes, or modifications, that are made to product registration or requirements that may occur after January 2004.

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