



Arrowhead

Sagittaria graminea



Arrowhead is an aquatic plant which is becoming an increasingly serious problem in irrigation areas. It spreads rapidly, blocks channels and greatly reduces the effectiveness of the water distribution system.

At present there are major infestations in G-MW's four eastern Irrigation Areas and there have been reports of minor infestations in the Pyramid-Boort and Torrumbarry Irrigation Areas.

HABITAT AND DESCRIPTION

Arrowhead is an emergent, erect plant, up to one metre high when mature. It grows in a number of forms.

The most recognisable form has lance-shaped or arrow-shaped leaves (hence the name) which are a distinctive green colour.

The next most prominent form has long, narrow, straplike leaves. These are often more yellow in colour and can grow adjacent to or separate from the lance-shaped plants.

The least prominent form grows under water. Its leaves are also straplike but much shorter, and grow in a rosette arrangement, up to 50 cm long and almost flat against the soil.

Arrowhead is found along river and creek banks, lagoons, irrigation channels and drains, dams etc generally in water depths less than one metre.

RAPID SPREAD

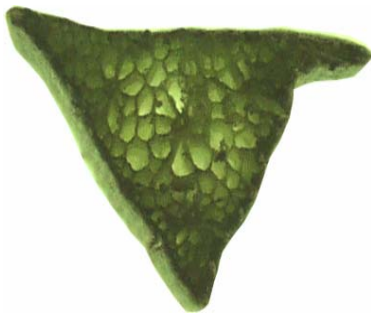
Arrowhead spreads rapidly, due to its many methods of reproduction.

Not only does arrowhead reproduce by the germination of seeds, it also has several methods of vegetative reproduction available to it. The plant has underground rhizomes (horizontal stems which put out both roots and shoots) which when detached from the plant can establish a new plant. It also has bulbs which remain viable in the soil for many years.

RESEARCH

Research into the plant's biology and control methods is currently being undertaken by Goulburn-Murray Water. This approach will help to identify important aspects of arrowhead's germination, growth and spread, as well as assessing the effectiveness of current and potential methods of control. The information





gathered will help in developing a more effective control strategy, involving several aspects of physical, environmental, herbicidal and possibly biological control of

CONTACT

Information to assist in the identification of arrowhead can be found at G-MW.

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Flower Position

Flowers positioned below the top of the plant...

Flowers

*In whorls of 4 –6.
Feathery about
2-4 cm long.*

Stems

*Stems are triangular in
cross section.*

June 2001



Underwater form



Lance shaped Form



Narrow leaf form

