

Sagittaria –

(*Sagittaria platyphylla*)

Weed of National Significance

Sagittaria is an aggressive invader of Australia's waterways. Native to North America it was introduced to Australia as an ornamental water plant. It has since spread to waterways in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.



Photo by: Keith Ward

Sagittaria has serious impacts

Sagittaria forms dense thickets in waterways that:

- block irrigation channels and drains
- degrade natural wetlands and waterways
- trap silt, leading to increased sedimentation
- replace native aquatic plants
- interfere with boating, fishing and swimming activities.

Sagittaria spreads easily

Sagittaria can invade new waterways as a result of birds spreading seed or ornamental plantings that spread downstream. Seeds may also be spread in mud attached to boating equipment, vehicles or earth moving machinery. Once sagittaria invades a waterway, the water current spreads seeds and plant fragments



downstream, creating a new infestation. One plant is capable of producing up to 20 000 seeds. Sagittaria has the potential to invade waterways in all states and territories.

How to identify sagittaria

Sagittaria has both emergent and submerged forms of growth. Emergent forms grow in water less than 1m deep and have the following identification features:



Photo by: Geoff Sainty



Photo by: Rae Kwong

1. Lanced or arrow shapes leaves on stalks arising from the bottom of the plant (broad leaved emergent form).
2. White flowers with a yellow centre in whorls of 2–12, on a leafless stem, appear below the height of the leaves.
3. Stems are triangular in cross-section.
4. The submerged form, known as rosettes, have translucent and strap like leaves that are distinctly white near the base.



Photo by: Ross Gledhill

Sagittaria is illegal

Sagittaria is a Weed of National Significance and is declared noxious in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia. It is an offence to sell, distribute or grow sagittaria in these states and penalties can apply.

Contact your local weeds officer if an outbreak is found: early detection is critical if sagittaria is to be successfully controlled.

Similar looking species



Alisma
(*Alisma plantago-aquatica*)

Smaller flowers that appear above the height of the leaves.



Photo by: Geoff Sainty

Arrowhead
(*Sagittaria calycina*, formerly *Sagittaria montevidensis*)

Stems have a more rounded cross-section and more distinct arrow shaped leaves.



Photo by: Geoff Sainty

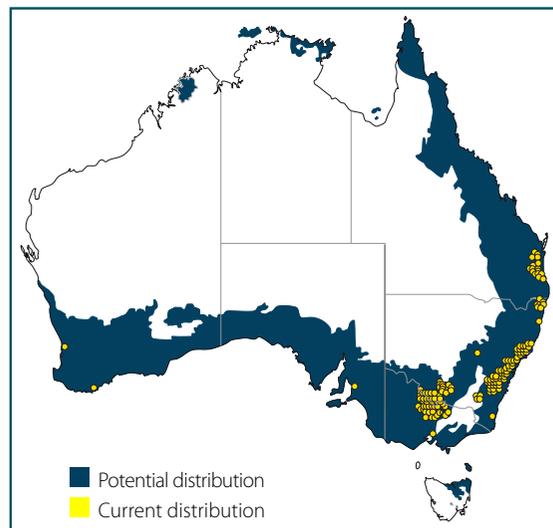
Ribbonweed
(*Vallisneria* spp.)

Can be confused with rosettes. Leaf tips rounded and mildly serrated. Leaves distinctively green near the base.

You can help stop the spread

- Remove sagittaria from your garden pond or water garden. Dispose of it responsibly by drying and burying.
- Treat infestations before they set seed.
- Report infestations, or retail outlets selling sagittaria, to your local weeds officer.

Distribution



Further information

For further advice on identification or control of sagittaria contact your local government or departmental weeds officer, or visit www.weeds.org.au



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