

PEST: Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)

BASIC PROFILE: Giant salvinia is a federal noxious weed. It has been found in a number of Louisiana waterways along with closely-related common salvinia. Both of these salvinias form thick floating mats of curly-leaved plant material that can clog waterways and push out native plants and wildlife. The two species are differentiated by closed, “egg-beater” hairs on the leaf surface of giant salvinia. Plants grow quickly.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF conducts routine inspections at nursery grower and nursery stock dealer sites that might be selling giant salvinia as an ornamental or pond plant. When found, plants are destroyed and the water is disposed of to prevent spread of residual plant material to waterway areas. Waterway infestations are under LDWF jurisdiction. Some open-water research and biocontrol efforts are underway using weevils that feed on this plant. Giant salvinia is well established in Louisiana.

