

# Seen this plant? Frogbit

*Limnobium laevigatum*



## How does this weed affect us?

Frogbit (sometimes called spongeplant) is a floating freshwater plant that spreads quickly and smothers ponds, dams, lakes, rivers and creeks. It can spread from a tiny piece into a thick, floating mat covering the whole water surface, and:

- clog waterways and make the water colder, darker and harder to reach for native plants and animals that use it;
- reduce the number of native plants, animals, fish and birds that can live in or near a waterway;
- make it hard to use a waterway for fishing, swimming or boating;
- hide the view of the water surface, creating a danger by making the water surface look like firm ground.

Seen it? Call:

**NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline or Rous County Council**  
**1800 680 244 02 6623 3800**

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:  
[weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/frogbit](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/frogbit)





Images: Terry Inkson, Courtesy MidCoast Council and [www.plantsam.com](http://www.plantsam.com)



## Where are we likely to find it?

Look for it in still or slow flowing freshwater, ponds, rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands or dams.

It is also found in garden ponds and water features, aquariums, and drains and ponds close to public parks.

You may also see it for sale online or at markets.  
Note: It is illegal to sell it.

## What does it look like?

It has smooth, round, fleshy green leaves about 4cm across. The top side of the leaves are glossy green and the underside looks and feels like a sponge (above right).

The leaves can float on the water or stick up on stems when the plants are crowded together.

The plants have hairy, branched roots that hang down in the water, and small, white flowers in between the leaves.

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