

# Frogbit

(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L.)

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**Description:**

Common frogbit is native to Europe and is commonly found in wetlands, marshes and slow moving water bodies. Typically, the leaf of frogbit is heart shaped, about 1-2 inches wide, with a green topside and purple-red underside. It is a free floating plant, meaning it does not require a sub straight to anchor. A distinguishing characteristic of the invasive is the single white flower. Each individual will produce one white flower, so multiple flowers indicate multiple individuals. Large mats can take over habitats, block sunlight to other native plants, and clog waterways.



**Habitat and Dispersion:**

Common frogbit is found in wetlands, marshes and slow moving waterways. It prefers calcium rich water with no wave activities. This limits its reach into the Catskills. Frogbit does have a root system although it is not usually rooted, thus can be found in deeper waters. The plant disperses via turions, or buds that break off and will produce a new plant. Masses of these invasive are typically one sex, so typically sexual reproduction are not a case of dispersion. Transport to new sites via ballast water and “hitch-hikers” is common.



**Management techniques:**

To reduce establishment, ballast water should be purged prior to moving. Plant fragments should be removed prior to moving or at least far enough from new water source to prevent spreading. Physical removal and dislodge turions and cause additional spread. Harvesting early in the spring season may lessen this impact. Biological controls such as grass carp have been used to some success. Chemical controls have been used to some success.

**Native Range and Original Use:**

Originally from Europe, this aquatic invasive was brought over, like many of our other aquatics, for the aquarium trade.

