

# Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)

## **Identification:**

Yellow floating heart can be identified by its circular leaves that float like “lily pads”, and its 5-petaled, yellow flowers. The underside of the leaves can sometimes be purplish, and the blooms, which are visible from June to September, are fringed, making it distinct from the commonly confused Spatterdock, which forms a cup-shaped flower. The vegetation forms dense mats that cover large portions of waterbodies, outcompete native vegetation, and deplete oxygen levels in the water.

## **Habitat and Spread:**

Yellow-floating heart thrives in slow-moving water bodies and produces leaves that float on the water’s surface and long roots into the mud below. New shoots emerge from nodes along a main “stolon” under the water, which is a stem that connects what appears to be many individual plants. The flower produces a capsule-like fruit that contains seeds with hairs which allow it to attach to waterfowl and other aquatic animals. Infestations can also spread from root pieces that wash downstream.



## **Management Techniques:**

Mechanical removal is the only certain effective method for tackling this species, but glyphosate is a likely candidate for impactful chemical removals. If an herbicide were to be used, application must be carried out with great caution as to avoid native species, and ensure the chemical being used is aquatic safe.

## **Native Range and Original Introduction:**

Native to Asia and Europe, *N. peltate* is still in use as an aquatic ornamental for landscaped water body installations. It is regulated in many other states all along the West Coast, and in the Northeast, including those that border New York to the east.

