# NOXIOUS WEED PROFILE

# Salvinia
## *Salvinia molesta*

## IDENTIFICATION

**Habit:** Aquatic free floating fern up to 30cm long.
**Leaves:** Round, in whorls of 3. The upper two are folded and usually above the surface of the water, while the third is submerged, divided and root like.
**Distribution:** Plant is commonly found in ponds and other freshwater bodies throughout NSW.
**Origin:** A native of South-east Brazil.

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Salvinia is most likely to be a garden pond or aquarium escapee. Flowing water will break up the plants and spread them in to other water bodies further downstream.
The plant grows rapidly in warm conditions. Salvinia can completely dominate the water body, creating a dense mat, and depleting all oxygen reserves in the water, causing all other aquatic life to perish.
Salvinia is declared a Noxious Weed in the City of Randwick and many other areas under the **Noxious Weed Act 1993**.
Salvinia is a class 2 **Noxious Weed**, which means that the weed must be notified to the local control authority and the weed must be continuously suppressed and destroyed.

## METHODS OF REMOVAL

There are a number of different methods that may be used to treat Salvinia. The option you chose would be determined by the size of the problem, the resources available and the time constraints you are working to.

**Herbicide**: Foliar application of an approved herbicide can kill Salvinia effectively.
**Manual/Mechanical Removal**: Both forms are quite effective.
**Biological Control:** *Cyrtobagous salviniae* a Salvinia eating weevil has been known to suppress Salvinia growth, however the climate in Sydney does not suit the weevils best growth requirements.

**Integrated Control:** The technique is the most sensible strategy, which includes a combination of one or two of the above prescribed methods, so that they compliment each other without detriment to the environment.
It is most important to keep in mind when controlling Salvinia, that regrowth from any remaining plant fragment will often occur, and consideration needs to be put into follow-up control and maintenance.

For enquiries regarding Noxious Weeds contact Council's Biodiversity Officer on:
**Ph** (02) 9399 0683 or 1300 722 542.