

Egeria

(*Egeria densa*)

Is Egeria on your property?

Egeria is included in Horizon's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Containment aquatic pest plant. This means that the plant is already in the region but further spread needs to be checked. The most effective way to manage aquatic plants is to control the dispersal pathways. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.



Identification

Perennial that can grow up to 5m with submerged roots. Stems are slim, light and easy to break, with 3 mm diameter multi-branches. Leaves are arranged in whorls of 4 – 6 and coloured dark green. Surface flowers are 3 petalled with 9 yellow stamens. Flowering occurs from November to January. Male plants only found in New Zealand.

Weedy characteristics

Shades native species to prevent recruitment.

Methods of dispersal

Loose stem fragments will root at any node, populating new sites. New catchments contaminated by diggers, boats and eel nets.

Impact on indigenous plants

Forms vast underwater meadows. Rotting vegetation stagnates water, killing fauna and flora. Is a serious threat to dune lakes and native species.

Control

1. Bottom lining: kills whole patches, including roots. Lay carefully to ensure fragments are not released.
2. Lower water level where possible, mechanically remove, use bottom lining.
3. Suction removal. Mulch. Generally not recommended in large **still** waterbodies as high chance of fragments spreading. If used, work methodically to trap all fragments, ensure collection bags do not leak. Moving water has this problem in any case (ie all sites below top of infestation are always at risk). Water flow can assist to shift infestation boundary downstream.
4. Grass carp: requires consent, refer to Department of Conservation policy.
5. Diquat gel, cutting. Generally not recommended.

Site management

Almost impossible to kill, except in small patches. Narrow waterbodies manipulate the plants growing conditions by reducing nutrient and light thus making it less competitive. For example you could plant trees to create shade.

Species recovery

Stem fragments drift and root readily when physically removed.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

