

## Why should you care?

Giant salvinia is currently one of the worst invasive aquatic plants threatening Texas lakes. If left unchecked, giant salvinia can form mats up to three feet thick that make fishing, boating, swimming and other water recreation nearly impossible. Giant salvinia also damages aquatic ecosystems by outcompeting and replacing native plants that provide food and habitat for native sportfish and waterfowl.

» *“A responsible boater who cleans off their boat and trailer before launching is helping to ensure that future generations of Texans will be able to enjoy the same great natural resources that we enjoy today.”*

TPWD Aquatic Invasive  
Species Biologist John Findeisen

Giant salvinia is just one of the many invasive species impacting Texas lakes and rivers. To learn more, visit [www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org)



## It's the law!

Possession or transportation of giant salvinia in Texas is illegal.

State law also requires boaters to drain all water from their vessel, including livewells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles or water intake systems before leaving or approaching public waters. This applies to all types and sizes of boats.

Violations are Class C misdemeanors for the first offense, punishable with a fine of up to \$500.

If you see  
a violation, call  
(800) 792-4263  
to report it.

## Report new sightings

If you spot giant salvinia, report it to:

» [giant.salvinia@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:giant.salvinia@tpwd.texas.gov) or  
[www.tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia)

Send a picture of the plant and its GPS location. If reported early enough, it may be possible to treat new infestations and stop its spread!

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Brazos River Authority  
Sabine River Authority  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



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4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744  
[www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

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# PROTECT THE LAKES YOU LOVE. STOP GIANT SALVINIA.



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## What is giant salvinia?

Giant salvinia is a highly invasive, free-floating aquatic fern that can double in size and acreage in less than a week. This invader causes devastating environmental and economic damage and restricts recreational use of Texas lakes.

## The spread of giant salvinia

A native of Brazil, giant salvinia arrived in the United States as a popular plant for water gardens and escaped into the wild. It was first found in Texas in 1998 and to date, has been reported in over twenty water bodies. Giant salvinia is frequently spread between water bodies on boats, trailers, and gear. Even a small fragment can lead to a new infestation if able catch a ride with boaters who don't clean, drain and dry.



## How do you spot it?

Giant salvinia forms dense mats made of chains of folded, quarter-sized green leaves that float on the water surface. Young giant salvinia plants have smaller leaves that lie flat on the water. The upper surface of the leaves is covered with white, coarse hairs that give them a velvety appearance.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

**The best control is prevention.** Even a tiny fragment of giant salvinia grows quickly and multiplies once introduced to a new lake or river. Giant salvinia spreads from lake to lake by hitching a ride on boats. Don't be a carrier. Protect the lakes you love by following these steps:

- **CLEAN** your boat, trailer and gear by removing plants and mud and checking all crevices for foreign objects. *Do not put plants into a body of water; instead, place them in a trash can or leave them to dry away from the boat ramp.*
- **DRAIN** all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, livewells and bait buckets – it's the law!
- **DRY** everything for at least a week before entering another body of water to kill any remaining giant salvinia fragments. If unable to dry completely, wash it with high-pressure, hot, soapy water.

**Clean, drain and dry your boat, trailer and gear.**



## PROTECT THE LAKES YOU LOVE.

For more information, visit: [www.tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia)

Text TPWD GS to GOV311 for updates on giant salvinia.