

# What is giant salvinia?

A native of Brazil, giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) is a highly invasive, free-floating aquatic fern that can double its size in less than a week. In the United States, giant salvinia began as a popular plant for water gardens, sold in aquatic nurseries, and was then introduced to the wild.

It was first found in Texas in 1998, and, to date, has been reported in over a dozen water bodies in Texas.



(Tear out this card to keep with you.)

## Have you seen this plant?

GIANT SALVINIA chokes lakes, ruins fishing and can double in size in a week.



### Report new sightings

Giant salvinia has already been reported in lakes across Texas, in some cases early enough to treat and stop its spread. If you spot giant salvinia, please immediately report it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at (409) 384-9965, or [giantSalvinia@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:giantSalvinia@tpwd.state.tx.us).

*If possible, take a picture of the plant and record its GPS location.*

### Report anyone transporting giant salvinia

Due to its fast growth and highly invasive nature, it is illegal to knowingly or unknowingly transport giant salvinia. Therefore, watercraft owners are encouraged to clean boats and trailers before leaving salvinia-infested water bodies.

*Texas game wardens are authorized to issue tickets for transport of salvinia species, as well as other prohibited plants. Transporting giant salvinia is a class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per plant.*

If you see a violation, call and report it to 1(800)792-4263.



# HELLO GIANT SALVINIA.

# GOODBYE TEXAS LAKES.





## We need your help to stop the spread of giant salvinia!

The best control is prevention! Giant salvinia can be transported from lake to lake on anything that has entered infested waters. Be sure you:

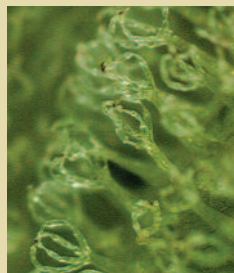
- Remove all plant material from your boat, trailer, tow vehicle and gear, and place it in a trash receptacle BEFORE leaving any body of water.
- Eliminate water from all equipment (motors, jet drives, live wells, boat hulls, etc.) before transporting it anywhere.
- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water before you enter another body of water.
- Do not release or put plants into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

## Identifying giant salvinia

Giant salvinia may be distinguished by its leaf hairs. The upper surface of the plant's green leaves are covered with white, coarse hairs that act as a water repellent and give the leaf a velvety appearance. Each of the tiny hairs on the leaf surface split four ways and then come back together at the tip to form an egg-beater shape. The hairs are large enough to be viewed with a magnifying glass.

Giant salvinia leaves are quarter to half-dollar sized. The leaves float on the surface of the water. Young plants have smaller leaves that lie flat on the water surface. As plants mature, the leaves fold and are compressed into upright chains that form dense mats on the water surface.

Underwater root-like structures conceal stalks with egg-shaped spore cases attached on older plants.



**Giant salvinia** is currently one of the most dangerous invasive aquatic plants in Texas. Left unchecked, giant salvinia can form mats up to three feet thick that prevent light from entering the water, stopping the growth of tiny organisms that form the base of the food chain. It damages aquatic ecosystems by outgrowing and replacing native plants that provide food and habitat for native animals and waterfowl. Additionally, it can form dense mats over the water that block out sunlight and reduce oxygen concentrations, degrading water quality for fish and other aquatic animals. The dense mats also make fishing, boating, swimming and other water recreation nearly impossible.



**“There is not enough money to fix the problem. The only way we can lick this is if every individual takes responsibility every time he or she puts a boat into the water.”**

TPWD Aquatic Biologist Howard Elder

**To prevent the spread of giant salvinia, clean your boat, trailer and gear!**

If you find new locations of giant salvinia, please notify TPWD at [giantssalvinia@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:giantssalvinia@tpwd.state.tx.us). If possible, take a picture of the plant and record its GPS location.

**Giant salvinia is just one of hundreds of invasive species changing the very landscape of Texas. To learn more, visit [www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org)**