

Is Yellow Floating Heart in your backyard?

What is Yellow Floating Heart?

- an invasive species in Nova Scotia; and has been identified in Dartmouth's, *Little Albro Lake*
- an aquatic, bottom rooted perennial plant native to Europe and Asia
- established itself in several areas of North America

Identification

- vigorous plant that produce stems that run below the water's surface
- heart-shaped leaves float on the water's surface
 - leaves measure 3 to 10 cm in diameter
 - wavy, slightly scalloped edges
 - usually have a pink or purple tinge on the underside
- yellow flowers
 - 3 to 4 cm in diameter
 - 5 petals arranged like a star



Important!!! - *Yellow Floating Heart is similar to Yellow Pond Lily.*



(a) Yellow Floating Heart is identifiable by its 5 fringed petals (invasive) vs.

(b) Yellow Pond Lily has a "cup-like" flower (native to eastern Canada)

Reproduction

- have abundant, viable seeds that are flat, oval and measure approximately 3 mm in length
- have the ability to germinate readily and float with the aid of hairs on the edges
- seed hairs attach easily to waterfowl and other animals, therefore causing wide dispersion

What are the Impacts?

- can form dense mats of floating vegetation that shade native aquatic plants growing below the water
- in extremely dense patches, water may become stagnant, resulting in lower levels of oxygen
 - this negatively affects fish and other aquatic organisms

Habitat

- grows in various substrates (sand, mud, gravel), in littoral areas ranging from the damp mud along the waters edge to water depths of 4 m
- prefers slow-moving waters:
 - lakes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, marshes
- Annual Cycle: between June and August
- Yellow Floating Heart can be bought in local retail garden centres and via the internet
 - plants can escape from private gardens to natural water systems from:
 - flooding
 - waterfowl or other animals
 - intentional introduction

You Can Help!!!

- If you sight Yellow Floating Heart:
 - take a photograph or collect a sample (keep it in water)
 - contact the Saint Mary's Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Network to report a sighting:

E-mail: environmental.network@smu.ca

Phone: 902.491.6243

- Never release aquatic plants, invertebrates, or fish into natural waterways, drainage ditches, storm drains or sewers
- Choose water garden sites that are isolated
- Do not collect plants from the wild or ornamental gardens; consider using only native aquatic plants
- Clean boats, propellers, trailers, scuba gear, fishing gear and other water equipment to prevent the spread of hitch hiking seeds
 - rinse with hot water (>40°C); or spray with high pressure water; or dry them in the sun for at least 5 days

Little Albro Lake, Dartmouth, NS:



(a) May 9, 2007



(b) May 27, 2007

Sources:

<http://www.invadingspecies.com>
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