

Salvinia molesta Mitch.

An free-floating aquatic fern that has become an invasive species in various parts of the world. It is known for its rapid growth and ability to cover the surface of water bodies, which can lead to detrimental ecological impacts. It consists of a network of horizontal, floating fronds that are buoyant and create a mat-like structure on the water's surface. The fronds of *Salvinia molesta* are typically green, oblong, and have a pair of floating leaves (or "top leaves") on the water's surface. These leaves are flat and covered with fine, hair-like structures that make them water-repellent, helping the plant stay afloat. Below the water, *Salvinia molesta* has submerged, finely dissected leaves. It can reproduce both vegetatively and through spore production. The fronds can break into smaller pieces, which then develop into new plants. Additionally, it produces sporocarps containing spores that contribute to its spread.



Native to
Brazil



Geo. Distribution
Cosmopolitan

