

PLANT PEST CONTROL

AQUATIC PLANT PESTS

Egeria densa

Why are we worried?

Egeria, an oxygen weed, can form dense growths up to five metres tall and reaching the water surface. It is a nuisance in recreational waters as it thrives in lakes and ponds and slow flowing water. Stem fragments are spread by currents and boats from one lake to another and could be a problem for hydro-electric schemes.

What does it look like?

- Egeria has a dense and more leafy habit than Elodea, Hydrilla or Lagarosiphon.
- Egeria lives on the bottom of waterways, and roots in sand or mud. It can form dense growth up to five metres tall, reaching the water surface.
- It has whorls of four to five leaves at each node. Leaves are up to 40 mm long by 25 mm wide, with minutely serrated margins.
- The stems of Egeria are brittle and usually 3 mm in diameter, and the flowers are white, with three petals from 4 mm to 12 mm long. In summer its numerous white flowers come up just above the water surface.
- It spreads rapidly on water currents by stem fragments which have lateral buds. These produce new shoots and roots.

Where is it found?

Egeria is abundant in Waikato and scattered throughout the remainder of New Zealand. In Hawke's Bay it has been found in the Karamu Stream and is suspected to be in a drain at Tamatea.

What's the best way to control the plant?

Torpedo herbicide containing diquat in the form of a gel is recommended. The gel is sprayed onto the water and as it sinks it clings to the plant. The gel must be used in clear water, not in murky or muddy water. Label directions must be followed. Contact the Regional Council for more information on control.

Photo courtesy of NIWA



For further information

If you think you may have this plant pest on your property, please contact the Biosecurity Plants Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to eradicate it.

Wairoa	0-6-838 8527
Napier	0-6-835 9200
Waipukurau	0-6-858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838