Azolla (Non Restricted Invasive Weed)

Azolla filiculoides & A. pinnata

Azolla is a native aquatic plant common in the Moreton Bay region. In waterbodies which are modified or where there are excess nutrients present, it can grow excessively and cause problems by blocking pump inlets and filters, entering drinking water tanks, and limiting recreation use of dams.

The prolific growth can also be considered an aesthetic nuisance in ornamental ponds and dams. The plant can double its leaf area in seven days under good growing conditions.

Azolla is a native plant that can experience prolific growth cycles. In these situations, azolla can be considered an invasive plant.

Description

Azolla is a common floating native water fern. It is distinguished by having small (10-30mm) ferny leaves which can be bright green, turning a red colour when in full sun.

The roots are fine and relatively short (10-40mm).

Azolla can benefit aquatic environments by providing a food source for waterfowl and fish; restrict the growth of exotic aquatic plants (such as Salvinia); and by providing habitat for organisms such as crustaceans and snails.

Management

Where control is deemed necessary it is best achieved by physical removal. This has the advantage of removing excess nutrients with the plant matter.

If you would like further information control of weeds visit Queensland Government Website.