Water mimosa
*Neptunia oleracea and N.plena*

Water mimosa poses an extreme threat to Queensland’s waterways and wetlands. It establishes from small plant pieces in water and from seed. Under favourable conditions, water mimosa grows out from the banks to form floating rafts of dense interwoven stems. These can be dislodged by water movement (especially during floods) and are soon replaced by more water mimosa.

These floating rafts can:
- restrict water flow in creeks, channels and drains;
- impede recreational water sports and boating access;
- increase water loss through evapotranspiration;
- reduce water quality by preventing light penetration and reducing oxygenation of water;
- create a favourable habitat for mosquitoes;
- reduce fish activity;
- cause the death of native, submerged water plants and fish; &
- replace native wetland plants.

**Description**

Water mimosa is an aquatic, floating perennial herb that attaches to the bank at the water’s edge and sends down a taproot. Stems grow out over the water and form a spongy, fibrous covering between the nodes. The rooted land form has smaller leaves and flowers, and has no spongy floating tissue.

Leaves are olive green and are arranged in opposite pairs along the stem. When disturbed or touched the leaflets close up.

Water mimosa flowers are yellow, ball-shaped and grow from the base of the leaves. Flowering begins in early summer.

Water mimosa can grow from seeds and from sections of stem that break free from the parent plant.

**Management**

In most instances, the most appropriate method of control is to physically remove the infestation. This can be done by removing all plant matter from the infested water body and pulling plants out of the surrounding banks, ensuring removal of the attached root system. This should be repeated on a regular basis until regrowth ceases. All removed plant parts should then be disposed of in an appropriate waste management facility or rubbish bin.

If you would like further information on the control of water mimosa, head towards the A–Z Listing of Weeds at [Queensland Government Website](http://www.qld.gov.au/). 

**Reference:** The State of Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2014, “Water mimosa, Weed Busters Fact Sheet”. 

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**Warning:** Water mimosa is a **High Risk Weed**. Take appropriate action to prevent its spread.