

Yellow Floating-heart

Nymphoides peltata



What is it and Why is it a Problem?

Yellow Floating-heart is a perennial aquatic plant that invades slow moving waters of lakes, rivers, and ponds. It shades out native plants, degrades fish and wildlife habitats, decreases dissolved oxygen content in the water and creates stagnant water favoured by mosquitoes. It also interferes with recreational activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.



What Does it Look Like?

- Like a Water Lily, the roots are buried under substrate with stems that grow to the surface where the leaves and flowers are
- Stems are 1 m or more long and branched
- Leaves are circular or heart shaped and about 3 - 10 cm long
- Flowers are star-shaped with five yellow petals
- Seeds are flat, oval and contained within capsules



How Can it be Managed?

- Report sightings of any invasive species online through [EDDMapS Ontario](#), a web-based mapping system which also has an app, or through the [Invasive Species in Ontario](#) project on [iNaturalist.org](#).
- Learn how to identify it so you can avoid accidentally spreading it with your fishing gear and equipment.
- Inspect your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving a fishing spot and before heading to a new fishing spot to remove any mud and plant fragments. Refer to

[OMNRF's Boater's Action Plan](#) for more information on cleaning your boat and gear.

- Avoid boating near known Yellow floating-heart infestations and reduce your speed. Propellers can cut off pieces of the plant and spread them to new areas.
- If you are considering removing any invasive aquatic plants, ensure you follow [OMNRF's rules](#) regarding removal - the beds of most water bodies in Ontario are Crown Land.
- Do not buy or sell Yellow Floating-heart for aquariums or watergarden use. You can refer to the [Grow me instead: Guide to Planting Native Plants in Southern Ontario](#) to determine what native aquatic plants to use instead - Yellow Floating-heart looks similar to native Yellow Pond Lily and Bullhead Lily. Oftentimes invasive aquatic plants end up reaching water bodies when people dispose of their unwanted aquarium plants. The correct way to dispose of unwanted aquatic plants is to donate them or throw them in the garbage. They can also be composted or mulched 30 m or more away from a watercourse on land.

References

[Great Lakes Nonindigenous Species Information System](#), produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Grow Me Instead \(Southern Ontario\) Brochure](#), produced by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council

[Invasive Aquatic Plant Species: A Quick Reference Guide](#), produced by Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

[Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program](#), developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).