

ALERT: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Yellow Floating Heart

(*Nymphoides peltata*)

Other names: *Fringed Water-Lily, Water Fringe, Floating Heart, Entire Marshwort*

Shaun Winterton, Aquarium and Pond Plants of the World, Edition 3, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



What's the threat?

Yellow Floating Heart:

- Grows in dense mats that shade and crowd out native aquatic plants
- Takes over and changes habitat for fish and wildlife
- Lowers oxygen levels in the water and creates stagnant water—ideal habitat for mosquito breeding
- Creates hazardous entanglement for recreational activities making it difficult to boat, fish or swim

How is it spread and where is it found?

- Native to Asia and Europe – often found in the margins of slow-moving rivers, lakes, reservoirs and swamps
- Typically introduced as an ornamental plant, spreads easily through seed dispersal and fragmentation (broken stems)
- Populations can be found in parts of the United States, eastern Canada, northern Europe and New Zealand
- As of 2019, the only report of this species was in a waterbody in Edmonton, but had connections to the North Saskatchewan River

REASON FOR ALERT:

Yellow Floating Heart was recently detected for the first time in Alberta. Since 2015, Yellow Floating Heart has been listed under the *Fisheries (Act) Alberta* as a prohibited species. It is illegal to possess, release, sell or transport this species within the province.

Description

- Perennial plant with five yellow, fringed petals on a single stalk
- Floating, heart-shaped leaves (3-10 cm diameter) with wavy margins
- Leaves grow opposite and have a purple tint to the underside
- Each flower produces one long beaked capsule, dispersing few flat, oval seeds

How can you help?

- Learn how to identify Yellow Floating Heart and other aquatic invasive species
- Report all sightings to the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)
- Raise awareness to prevent the introduction of this species into Alberta waters
- Never import, own, sell or transport this species in Alberta

If you have seen a Yellow Floating Heart for sale or in Alberta waters, report it immediately to the Aquatic Invasive Species hotline

1-855-336-BOAT (2628)