

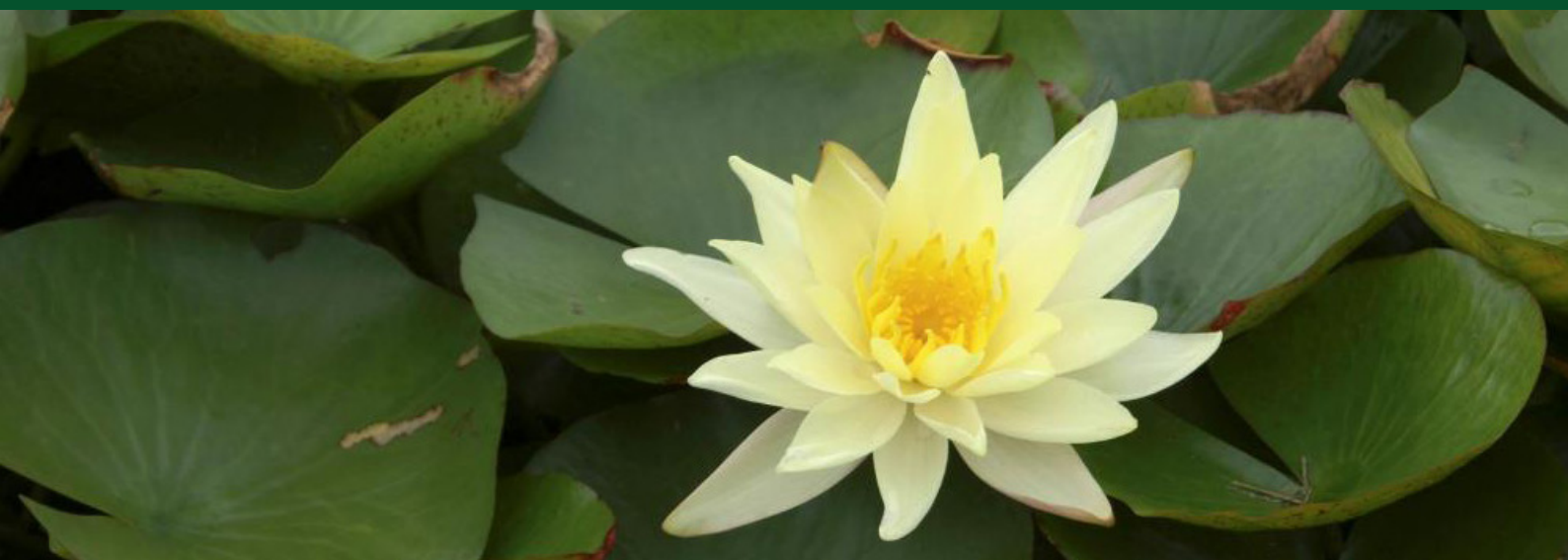
# Yellow waterlily (*Nymphaea mexicana*)

## Weed management guide

Weed type  
**Floater**

February 2023

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-west](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-west)



In NSW, weeds are regulated by the NSW Biosecurity Act, 2015. All land managers have a General Biosecurity Duty to contain the spread of weeds.

*“General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).”*

The Regional priority for Yellow waterlily is Prevention. In order to achieve this, Land Managers are asked to: *Mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found.*

For further information, contact your local Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer via Central West Local Land Services or visit NSW WeedWise.

NSW WeedWise



# Habit and description

Yellow waterlily is a floating aquatic weed. The leathery leaves (<25 cm wide) are round-shaped with a cleft that makes it resemble a heart. The leaves develop from thick rhizomes, which are hidden underwater on long petioles (leaf stems) . It has yellow flowers that have the appearance of a pointed star.

This species prefers to grow in slow, stagnant freshwater.



Photo: © National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research | Weedbusters NZ



Photo: © Trevor James | Weedbusters NZ



Photo: © Trevor James | Weedbusters NZ



Photo: © Trevor James | Weedbusters NZ

# Reproduction and spread

This plant can reproduce sexually and asexually. Yellow waterlily produces seeds which are transported by water. Detached plant fragments also spread by water often a result of boats and fishing activities.

## Impacts

### Agriculture



- As it forms dense infestations, it can obstruct waterways.
- Water quality of infested areas also suffer.
- The leaves also serve as an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### Native vegetation



- Its presence excludes other native plants from thriving.
- The large leaves of the Yellow waterlily sit on the surface of water bodies, blocking light from reaching below (Weedbusters NZ, n.d.). Underwater plants therefore struggle to grow and survive.

## Management

### Chemical



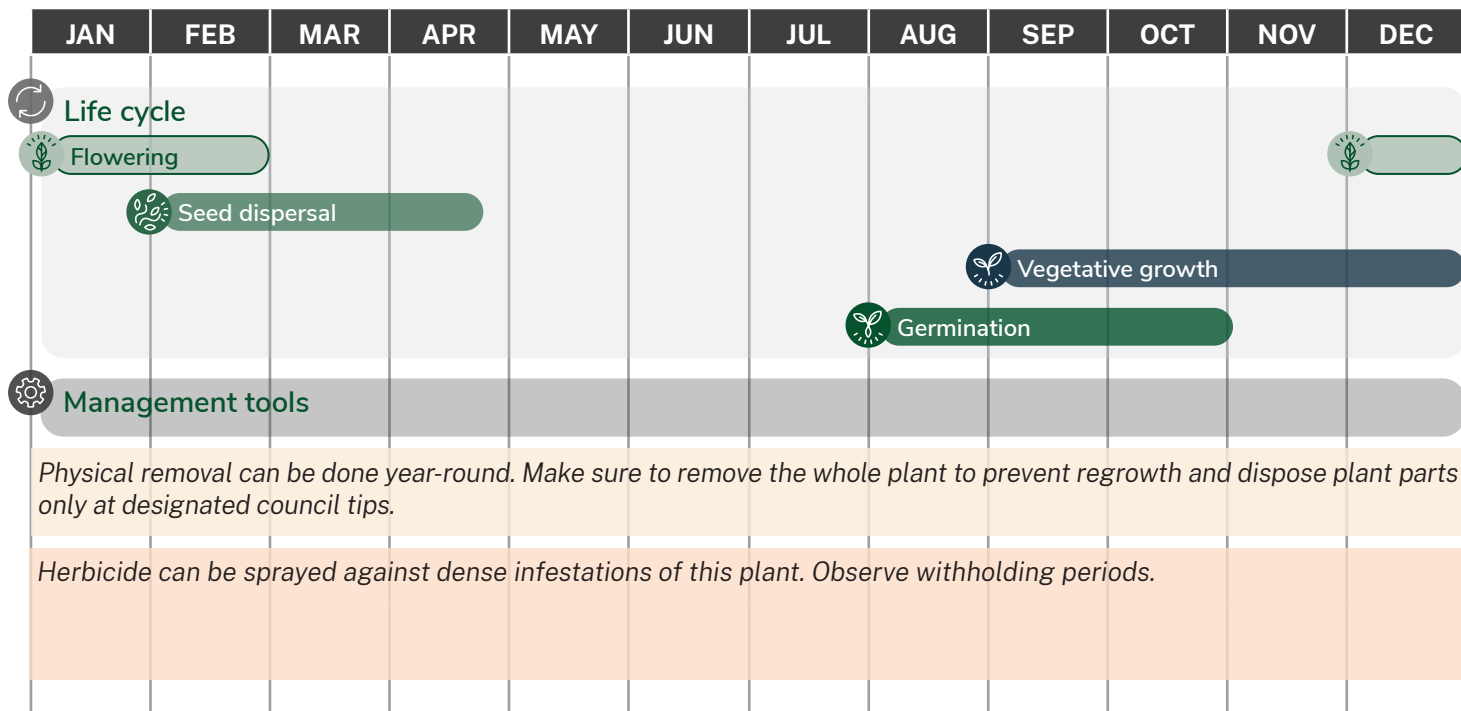
- Spraying of herbicides is feasible against dense infestation of Yellow waterlily.
- Seek the guidance of an experienced Weeds Officer for expert advice on herbicide use.
- Visit [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) for a list of registered products, product labels and permit requirements.
- NSW DPI (2018) provides a list of recommended herbicides for the control of Yellow waterlily at <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/WaterLilies>

### Non-chemical



- Physical removal can be done to control small infestations. Ensure the removal of the whole plant to prevent regrowth.

# Management calendar



Optimal control options may vary depending on your location and climate. Consult an experienced Weeds Officer based in your local government area for control methods suited to your conditions.

All herbicides must be used in accordance with the herbicide label and permit requirements.

NSW WeedWise

## Further information

For more information on your general biosecurity duties, visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity).

For the best guidance on how to meet this duty on your property, contact your expert Weeds Officer at your local council or via Local Land Services [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-west](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-west).



## References

NSW DPI. (2018). NSW WeedWise. <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/WaterLilies>

Weedbusters. (n.d.). Mexican water lily. <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/mexican-water-lily/>

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