



Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 2946101  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461



**Help protect the Santee Cooper lakes!**



**Invasive Plant Alert!**

**ALERT****ALERT****ALERT****ALERT****ALERT**

# New invasive aquatic plant species discovered in Lake Marion near Rimini, SC

Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), a rapidly growing invasive plant, has been discovered in Lake Marion. **We need your help to stop its spread.** It spreads long distances via water currents and between water bodies by animals, boaters, hunters and fishermen unknowingly transporting the plants from one lake to another. Homeowners disposing of water garden and aquarium plants in public waters, private ponds and ditches can also spread this invasive plant.

## You can help control the spread of invasive aquatic plants by:

- Removing any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting boats and trailers.
- Eliminating water from equipment before transporting.
- Cleaning anything that comes in contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never releasing plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
- Reporting aquatic weed problems in public waters to the SCDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Program at 803-755-2872.

State and federal law strictly prohibits the intentional spread of this and other non-native species.

*Salvinia molesta*, a floating aquatic fern, thrives in slow-moving, nutrient-rich, warm freshwater. It can form dense vegetation mats hindering navigation, reducing water flow, and lowering light and oxygen levels, which creates a stagnant, dark environment that negatively affects freshwater fish and submerged aquatic plants.

## IDENTIFICATION OF THIS PLANT

*Salvinia molesta* has branched stems with floating leaves in pairs at each joint with a third modified leaf that resembles and functions like roots dangling below the water surface. Floating leaves are light to medium green, nearly round, and 1/2 to 1 inch long and wide. The upper surface is covered with dense, stiff white hairs with distinct “egg beater” or “bird cage” shaped tips. A similar yet less invasive *Salvinia minima* has hairs curved outward in a “T” or “umbrella” shape. Differentiation of these types of hairs is best performed under magnification.

*Salvinia molesta* (invasive)



**IF YOU SEE GIANT SALVINIA PLEASE REPORT IT TO SANTEE COOPER OR SCDNR.**

Santee Cooper:  
843-761-4101

[AquaticPlantControl@santecooper.com](mailto:AquaticPlantControl@santecooper.com)

SCDNR:

803-755-2872

[invasiveweeds@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:invasiveweeds@dnr.sc.gov)



**DNR**