



Analytical and Biological Services
P.O. Box 2946101
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Invasive Plant Alert!



Help protect the Santee Cooper lakes!

Crested floating heart

(an invasive weed) has been identified in the Santee Cooper Lakes system.

Its aggressive growth and resistance to herbicidal treatment make it a serious menace to any aquatic ecosystem. Perhaps the biggest threat crested floating heart poses is its ability to create a monoculture, or single-species habitat. It can out-compete and dominate other species and can cause complete changes to the ecosystem.

There are 160,000 surface acres on the Santee Cooper lakes, and crested floating heart has the potential to cover as much as 40 percent of it.

Additional problems can arise from the sheer biomass of the plants, which can affect water quality for drinking-water supplies, electric hydropower production and recreational activities such as boating, swimming, fishing and hunting.

Crested floating heart resembles native vegetation like big floating heart (banana lily).

The plants can most easily be distinguished by their flowers as well as the underside of the floating leaves. Crested floating heart, the invasive species, has a smooth underside and a ruffled crest (like a rooster's comb) down the center of its flower petals. Big floating heart has prominent veins and a very rough surface texture on its underside, and its flower petals have no crest-like structure down the center. The underside of big floating heart is also much darker in color.

Crested floating heart so far has been primarily contained to the Santee Cooper lakes, but the S.C. Department of Natural Resources recognizes it as a potential threat to all South Carolina waterways.

The plant has been submitted for addition to the South Carolina Noxious Weed List, which will make it illegal to sell or possess crested floating heart in South Carolina. In the meantime, Santee Cooper and DNR advise you not to transport crested floating heart or any other invasive plant to other water bodies. Boaters should check their hulls and trailers to make sure they aren't inadvertently transporting it from one area of the Santee Cooper lakes to another.

Crested floating heart (invasive)



Big floating heart (native)



IF YOU SEE CRESTED FLOATING HEART, PLEASE REPORT IT TO SANTEE COOPER OR SCDNR.

Santee Cooper:
843-761-4101

AquaticPlantControl@santeecooper.com

SCDNR:

803-755-2872

invasiveweeds@dnr.sc.gov



DNR