

EUROPEAN FROG-BIT (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Rare**



- Discovered in Oneida Lake in 2004
- Resembles a miniature water lily
- Leaves cover the water's surface and can shade out native vegetation

European frog-bit
Richard Carignan, Univ. of Montreal

European frog-bit is a Eurasian species imported to Ottawa, Canada in 1932 for cultivation. It was first discovered in eastern Oneida Lake at the mouth of Oneida Creek in 2004.

By June 2005, frog-bit had appeared in the Oneida River, Big Bay, and in six marinas. This species can be spread by release from home aquaria, by release as food for waterfowl, and by entanglement on boats and trailers.



A frog-bit infestation at the east end of Oneida Lake at Marion Manor
Jaimy George, CCE Onondaga County



A dense mat of frog-bit
Jaimy George, CCE Onondaga County



Frogbit is a free-floating (roots are not anchored in the sediment) aquatic plant that resembles a tiny water lily. Its rounded heart-shaped leaves are smooth and leathery, rarely exceeding 2 inches in diameter. The plant can form dense floating mats that restrict the availability of light and nutrients that nourish submerged native vegetation. It may also negatively impact fish by depleting dissolved oxygen levels.

European frog-bit flower
Erich Haber

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January 2007