

# Kidney leaf mud plantain

*Heteranthera reniformis*

Kidney leaf mud plantain (KLMP) was a popular ornamental pond plant that has led to its escape and spread in the Australian environment. Its quick growth, mat-forming habit, and its ability to out-compete native vegetation means it has the potential to be a serious weed.



## Distribution

KLMP grows prolifically in highly disturbed, shallow, freshwater habitats. It was introduced into Australia as a pond plant, with escaped plants colonising freshwater streams, ponds and mudflats.

## Description

KLMP is an aquatic plant with stalks of 2-15cm in length.

The leaves are a bright, glossy green and kidney-shaped; 1-4cm long and 1-5cm across.

Flowers are borne in clusters (racemes). They are small, white or pale blue, with six petals.

The fruit are small capsules containing tiny, winged seeds (less than 1mm).

## Habitat

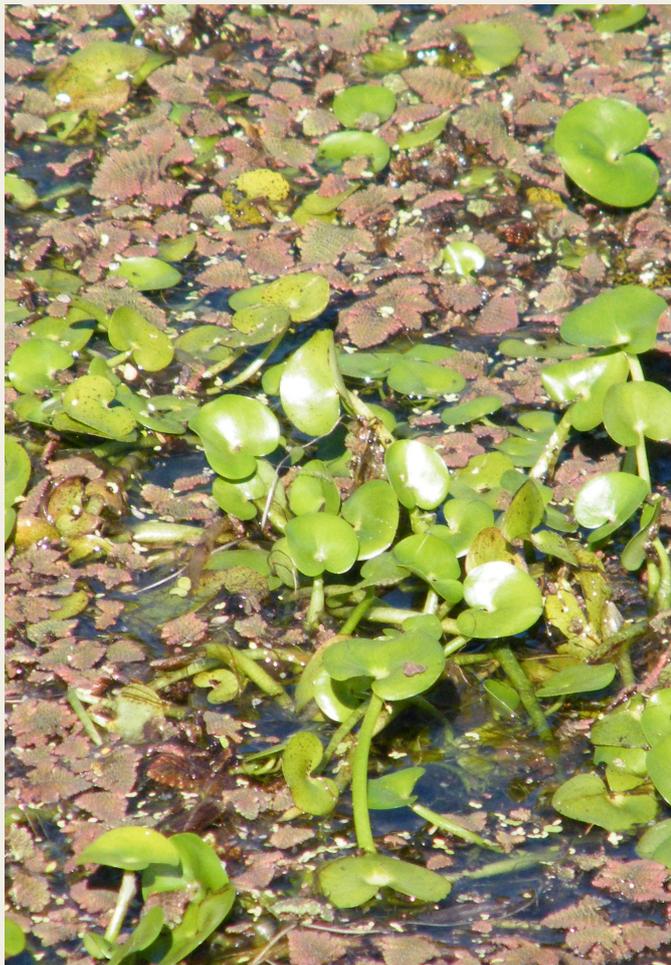
Naturalising in disturbed habitats, roadside ditches, riverbanks, streams, ponds and freshwater tidal mudflats, KLMP is a serious threat to native vegetation.

## Reproduction and dispersal

Seeds can last for many years, and vegetative reproduction occurs from stem fragments.



## Kidney leaf mud plantain *Heteranthera reniformis*



### Declaration

#### Regional priority weed objective: Eradication

These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the State. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

### Control

Early detection and eradication will prevent the spread of this weed.

If you have seen, or think you have seen, KLMP please contact Rous County Council on (02) 6623 3800 for a positive identification and advice with control.

Infestations can be spread by inappropriate control activities.

The shallow growing depth of this plant suggests that it may allow mechanical removal. However, as the plant can reproduce vegetatively, this may lead to further spread through fragmentation.

Effective control has been achieved by using a registered herbicide. Check the NSW Weed Control Chemical Handbook for advice:  
[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/123317/weed-control-handbook.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/123317/weed-control-handbook.pdf)



(Photo source: Kim Curtis.)

#### For further information contact:

Rous County Council  
02 6623 3800

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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