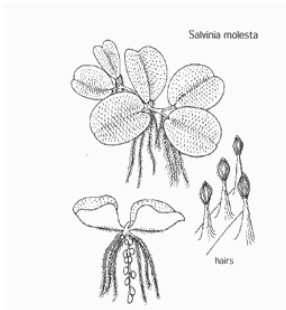


## Giant Salvinia Spotted on Lake Claiborne

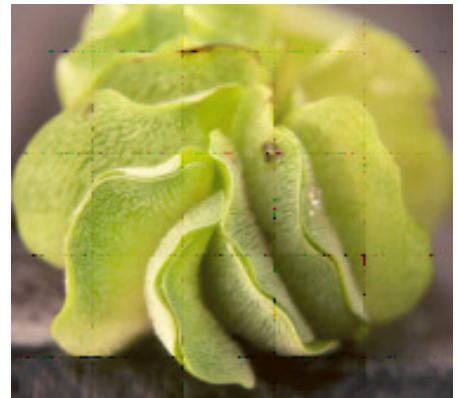
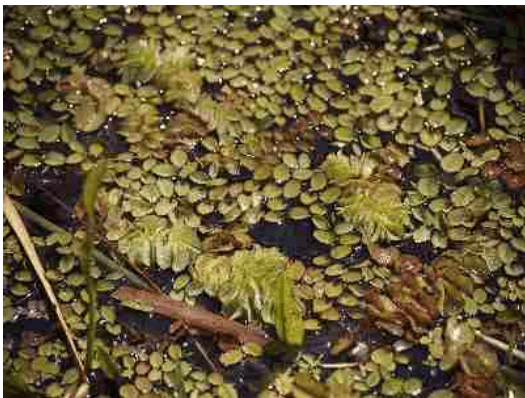
By 2006, Giant Salvinia, one of the world's worst aquatic weeds, had been found on 6 of 13 lakes routinely sampled by Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF) District 1 (Claiborne Parish is in District 1). In spring, 2008, it was spotted on Lake Claiborne. Controlling this plant consumes much of LDWF's resources for nuisance aquatic plant control.

**THE DANGER:** Giant Salvinia, is not native to North America. It is a damaging invader. The plant leaves form dense mats that can double in size in just a few days. Up to 2 feet thick or more, mats can cover the surface of an entire pond or small lake, blocking out sunlight and causing the water underneath to be unsuitable for other aquatic life. The plant can ruin conditions for fishing, boating, and waterskiing, and clogs irrigation and electrical generating systems.



**BOATERS:** Always inspect the inside and outside of your boat and trailer for any plant material before leaving the boat ramp – clean the livewells, and intakes; inspect prop guards, trolling plates, transducers, anchor and anchor rope; inspect fishing tackle.

**IDENTIFY:** Please report sightings of this plant to LDWF District 1 Biologist: 318-371-3050. Giant Salvinia is a fern and has no flower. It has sporangia but has only been found to reproduce vegetatively. The floating leaves of giant salvinia are oblong (0.5 to 1.5 inches long) with a distinct midrib along which the leaf may fold forming a compressed chain-like appearance. Salvinias have stiff leaf hairs on the upper surface of the leaves. In giant salvinia the leaf hairs have a single stalk that divides into four branches that reconnect at the tip, giving the hair a cage-like or egg-beater appearance.



**CONTROL:** The plant can establish itself in a new area/waterbody from one small remnant. It is illegal to be in possession of the plant. Grass carp stocking is rarely totally effective. Louisianans may only stock Triploid Grass Carp for vegetation control and must obtain a permit from WLF.

A helpful website: [http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/database/floating\\_plants/giant\\_salvinia\\_mgmt.htm](http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/database/floating_plants/giant_salvinia_mgmt.htm).