

# Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

## Synonyms:

- floating water hyacinth, Nile lily, lilac devil, pickerelweed, water orchid, water violet.
- *E. cordifolia*, *E. crassicaulis*, *E. speciosa*, *Heteranthera formosa*, *Piaropus crassipes*, *P. mesomelas*, *Pontederia crassicaulis*, *P. crassipes*, *P. elongata*

**Consignments likely to come from:** unknown

**Use:** commonly used as a garden pond plant

**Identification difficulty:** easy

## Identification information:

- aquatic floating plant
- leaves have distinctive swollen bases
- leaves are glossy, thick and rounded
- flowers, rarely present in UK, are pale purple and clustered in spike reminiscent of a hyacinth



## Key ID Features





# Similar species

There are not many plants likely to be confused with water hyacinth, especially if it is in flower. However, it might be confused with other large floating plants such as water lettuce.

*Eichornia crassipes*  
(water hyacinth)  
For comparison



Water hyacinth may have flowers, unlike water lettuce

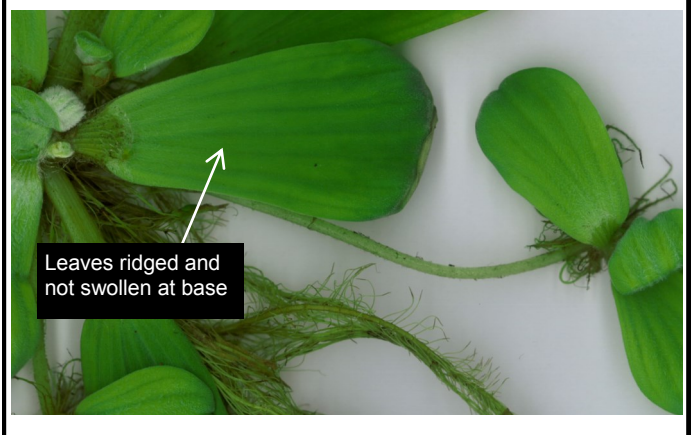
*Pistia stratiotes*  
(water lettuce)



Floating plant sold in similar way to water hyacinth



Roots similar to water hyacinth



Additional online resources to support identification:

[Q-bank](#)

[University of Florida](#)