

Yellow Floating Heart: An Exotic Aquatic Plant

Nymphoides peltata



Description

- Yellow Floating Heart, an aggressive exotic aquatic plant, is native to Asia but now occurs in over 15 states.
- The shiny green leaves are heart-shaped and the size of a silver dollar. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem, and oppositely on the flower stalks. Leaf margins are often rippled and purplish underneath.
- Two to five showy yellow flowers are supported several inches above the water on strong stalks. The flowers have 5 petals, with fringed margins, and are usually 3-5 cm in diameter.
- The rope-like stems are attached to adventitious roots on the lake's bottom.

Yellow Floating Heart

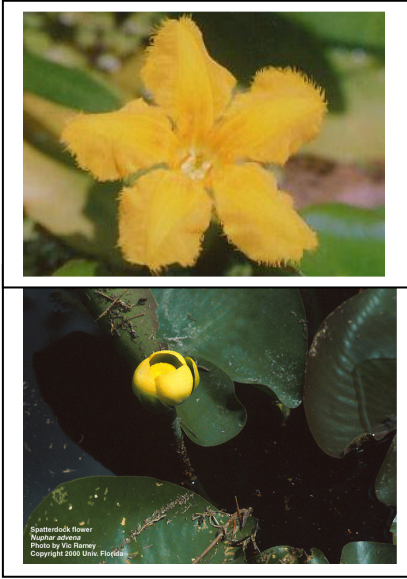


Habitat

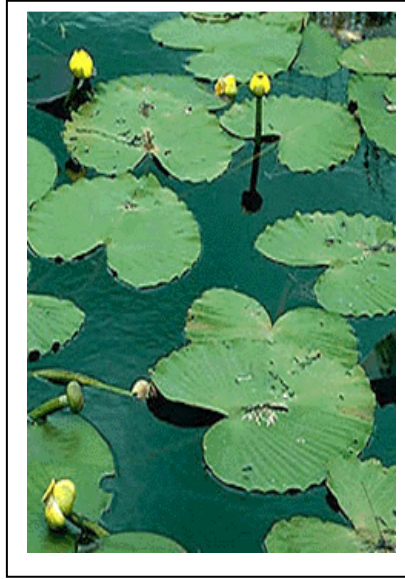
N. peltata is a hardy and persistent species that is established in a wide range of aquatic habitats; however, this species prefers quiet lakes and slow moving streams.

- This species has been documented in Massachusetts and other areas of New England.

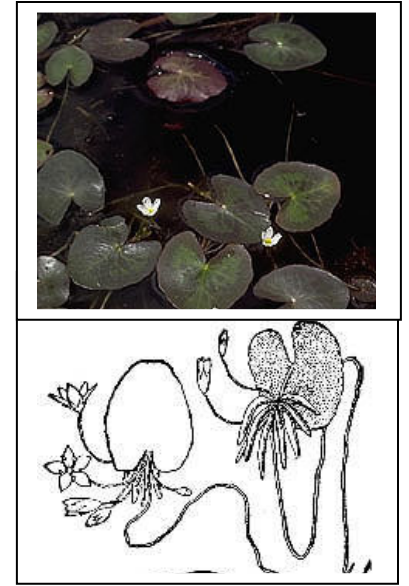
Yellow Floating Heart compared to Little Floating Heart and Yellow Water Lilly



Top: Yellow Floating Heart flower
Bottom: Yellow Water Lilly flower



Yellow Water Lilly (Cow Lilly or Spatterdock) has large 6-8 inch leaves and cup shaped flowers.



Little Floating Heart has white flowers (above) and root bunches on the stem below the leaves (below).

Prevent The Spread!

- Never release any plant or animal into a waterbody unless it came from that water body.
- Never empty aquariums or release garden pond plants into a local water body.
- Remove ALL plant matter and mussels from boat, trailer, anchors, fishing and dive gear.

References:

1) Literature References:

Washington State Department of Ecology

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/plantid2/descriptions/nympel.html>

Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Species: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/eiccra.html>

2) Photographs were obtained from: <http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/> except:

N. peltata flower obtained from: http://www.co.stevens.wa.us/weedboard/image_weeds/yfh1.jpg

Little Floating Heart photo obtained from: <http://plants.usda.gov/>

3) Line drawings were obtained from: http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/plant_profile.cgi?symbol=NYPE

3) The distribution map was taken from: http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/plant_profile.cgi?symbol=NYPE

For more information or to report a sighting, please contact:

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Or visit the Lakes and Ponds web site at: <http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds>

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