

PARROTS FEATHER

Myriophyllum aquaticum

May 2017



KEY INFORMATION

Preferred Habitat: Still or slow flowing water, such as backwaters.

Wandle Distribution:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Croydon | Sutton | Merton | Wandsworth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Recommended Control: Hand-lifting

Biosecurity: Ensure all PPE and equipment is thoroughly cleaned, following check, clean, dry protocols. before leaving the site.



EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE

Wandle Strategy: With few known sites, this plant can be eradicated. Tackle and clear this species from all known locations upon it being discovered.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Origin: South America

Biology: PF spreads exclusively by fragments in the UK as no seed is produced.

Fragments are easily broken from the brittle stem and rhizomes, transported long distances by man, birds and other animals; establishing new colonies. Biosecurity is therefore key when working in areas infested with this plant.

PF grows best when rooted in shallow water, but can also occur as floating plants in deeper water.

In the autumn, PF dies back to the rhizomes which do not store phosphorous or carbon. The plant also lacks overwintering structures like turions or winter buds. This may explain the failure of PF to successfully invade areas of the UK where the winters are harsher.

IMPACTS ON THE WANDLE

Rapid growth rates allow PF to quickly outcompete and exclude native vegetation from shallow, still waters reducing their amenity value.

Dense mats of PF can change the physical and chemical characteristics of water bodies. Chemically, PF mats block out sunlight reducing photosynthesis by submerged plants, depleting the oxygen levels in the water below. Physically, dense mats of PF easily traps sediment speeding up succession.

Where PF dominates, and native vegetation is excluded, there is reduced diversity of food, and due to the high tannin content, native fish do not eat Parrots Feather.

There is a risk of hybridisation with native *Myriophyllum* species, which has occurred in the USA.

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EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE SPECIES

Equipment: Nets to catch bits downstream, chromes and grappling hooks.

Qualifications: No

PPE: Gloves, waders/wellingtons

Time of Year: March to Oct - *If any growth is present or visual during the colder months of the year, hand-lifting severely restricts the regrowth.*

Method:

Place nets downstream of large patches before removal to prevent any fragments being dispersed. If possible, leave the nets in over night and carefully remove the next morning. Do not forget to check, clean and dry the nets.

If dealing with large volumes of biomass, separate into manageable sections and float or drag to the side. Hook out the rafts using forks or a 4 tine potato hook/chrome.

Deposit in large piles far from any waterbody and allow to decompose in situ.

Ensure you revisit the site regularly to check for regrowth or any missed plants. Carefully remove all fragments of PF found from water surface and from the side of the waterbody. Bag, remove and compost.



OTHER CONTROL OPTIONS

NONE - Chemical control is not advised along the Wandle. When applied, Roundup ProVantage has been found to increase the brittleness and fragmentation, aiding dispersal.



Living Wandle
Landscape Partnership

