

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	An aquatic species, it does not restrict human access on land.	P & C (2001)	L
2. Reduce tourism?	“When densely established, water hyacinth makes swimming and pleasure boating impossible.” Major impact on recreation.	P & C (2001)	H
3. Injurious to people?	No toxic properties, however, infestations provide ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes and other animal vectors. “Decaying plants make water putrid and unfit for drinking by humans or animals.” Potentially harmful associations.	P & C (2001)	H
4. Damage to cultural sites?	“Floating rafts can be up to 1 metre deep and, in Florida, have become so large that wooden railway bridges are pushed over.” Potential threat to European cultural structures.	P & C (2001)	H
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	“Water hyacinth chokes waterways reducing flow.” Minor impact on surface flow due to free-floating aquatics.	P & C (2001)	ML
6. Impact water quality?	“Dense growth removes considerable oxygen from water which, affecting the health of fish.” Moderate effect on O ₂ level.	P & C (2001)	MH
7. Increase soil erosion?	Aquatic species.	P & C (2001)	L
8. Reduce biomass?	Biomass significantly increased.		L
9. Change fire regime?	Aquatic species.	P & C (2001)	L
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	Aquatic species		L
(b) medium value EVC	Aquatic species		L
(c) low value EVC	Aquatic species		L
11. Impact on structure?	“Dense mats exclude other aquatic plants.” “In its native range, <i>E. crassipes</i> may be part of a mixed community of floating and emergent plants or grow as a monoculture.”	Muyt (2001) Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	H
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

Scientific Name: *Eichhornia crassipes*

Common name: Water hyacinth

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	"Dense mats...destroy habitat for native invertebrates, fish and birds." Habitat changed dramatically.	Muyt (2001)	H
15. Benefits fauna?	No known benefits.		H
16. Injurious to fauna?	Not toxic.		L
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	"Most animals, except rabbits, do not eat the plant readily." Supplies food to serious pest.	P & C (2001)	MH
18. Provides harbor?	Not known to provide harbor.		L
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	"Losses are staggering, for example, in the Indian State of West Bengal, it causes an annual loss of paddy rice valued at 110 million rupees." Serious potential to affect irrigated crops in Victoria.	P & C (2001)	H
20. Impact quality?	Aquatic species.	P & C (2001)	L
21. Affect land value?	In areas using irrigation, land values may be seriously affected. (See Q19 above.)		H
22. Change land use?	If water is not available for irrigation, infestations may lead to land being unusable for some agricultural activities. (See Q19 above.)		H
23. Increase harvest costs?	Does not affect harvest costs.		L
24. Disease host/vector?	"...water hyacinth has been reported to be an alternative host for the Asian corn borer, <i>Ostrinia furnacalis</i> Guenee and the rice root nematode, <i>Hirschmanniella oryzae</i> (van Breda de Haan) Luc and Goody."	Groves <i>et al</i> (1995)	H