

Agriculture Protection Board
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ARROWHEAD & SAGITTARIA



Photo Credit: NSW Water Resources Commission.

Sagittaria (*Sagittaria graminea* (Michx.) and Arrowhead (*Sagittaria montevidensis* (Cham. & Schldl.) are potentially troublesome aquatic weeds in Western Australia. They have become a nuisance in drainage channels and rice fields in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of New South Wales.

In north-central Victoria these species block irrigation channels. Arrowhead and Sagittaria are native to America. They are declared plants (noxious weeds) in Western Australia and cannot be imported into the State or kept here and all plants present must be destroyed. This is best done by drying out and burning.

Description

Arrowhead and Sagittaria are annual aquatic plants which can grow up to one metre in height. They have large dark green arrow-shaped leaves above the water surface and long thin leaves below. The leaves growing above the water surface

(continued overleaf)

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have conspicuous radiating veins and are carried on upright spongy stems.

The roots of Arrowhead and Sagittaria are brown and fleshy. Flowers are produced on erect stems, during summer. Each flower has three white petals and a bright

yellow centre. After pollination the flowers curve downwards and produce a fruit composed of numerous beaked nutlets. The fruit is about 2 cm in diameter.

Urgent action is essential to eradicate isolated patches of Arrowhead and Sagittaria to prevent

the weeds getting established in Western Australia. Suspect plants should be reported to the Agriculture Protection Board, telephone PERTH (09) 367 0111 or any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.