

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower cluster. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Berrimah, NT



Flowering stem. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer CG Wilson, Brisbane, Qld

Common name

Water hyacinth, Water orchid, Nile lily

Family

Pontederiaceae

Where found

In still fresh water or slow-moving waterways. Mostly Sydney area and the lower Blue Mountains. Rarely elsewhere.

Notes

Erect, emergent, free-floating, **stoloniferous perennial** herb to 1 m high. **Stolons** about 10 cm long, hairless, with dark coloured feather-like roots to 100 cm long on the water surface, giving rise to new plants. Leaves in basal **rosettes**, 2-25 cm long, 20-250 mm wide, hairless, glossy, with almost parallel **veins**. Leaf stalks spongy, often inflated and buoyant. Flowers purple, bluish or mauve (rarely white), 30-70 mm in diameter, with 6 '**petals**', fused below into a tube 10-20 mm long. The upper 'petal' with a darker blue patch with a yellow centre. Flowers in **spikes** to 50 cm long, of 3-35 flowers. Flowering: during the warmer months.

A Weed of National Significance. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Eichhornia~crassipes> (accessed 12 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)



Android edition



iOS edition