

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower. Photographer Ori Fragman-Sapir, Botanical Gardens, Israel



Partly open flower and leaf. Photographer Ori Fragman-Sapir, Botanical Gardens, Israel



Flower and leaves. Photographer Rodney Falconer, west of Byron Bay

Common name

Cape Waterlily

Family

Nymphaeaceae

Where found

Aquatic in fresh water. Sydney area and north.

Notes

Introduced perennial herb with small **tubers** that may develop into short vertical **rhizomes**. Fruit fleshy. Leaves basal, floating, round with a radial slit, 30–40 cm long, 300–400 mm in diameter, lower surface suffused with maroon, upper surface green, margins irregularly wavy to almost toothed, both surfaces hairless. Flowers blue, white or rarely blue-pink, 70–150 mm in diameter, with many '**petals**', standing about 0.3 m above the water surface. Flowers single. Fruit enclosed by the '**petals**', drawn beneath the water surface by the spiralling flower stalk.

Nymphaea capensis in PlantNET.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions in the Murray and Riverina areas, NSW (as *Nymphaea species*)

PlantNET description (as *Nymphaea capensis*): <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Nymphaea~capensis> (accessed 20 April 2021)

Description partly based on Flora of North America (as *Nymphaea capensis*): http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=233500823 (accessed 20 April 2021)

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