

# *i*MapInvasives Species Tutorial

## **Water Chestnut** (*Trapa natans*)



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# Water chestnut is . . .

an aquatic annual plant that can be found in shallow (< 16 feet) freshwater lakes and ponds, and slow-moving streams and rivers.



- It forms dense mats of floating leaves.
- Stems can be up to 15 feet long.
- Roots extend down to the bottom of the waterbody.



# When identifying plants, it is helpful to answer several questions . . .

## What do the leaves look like?



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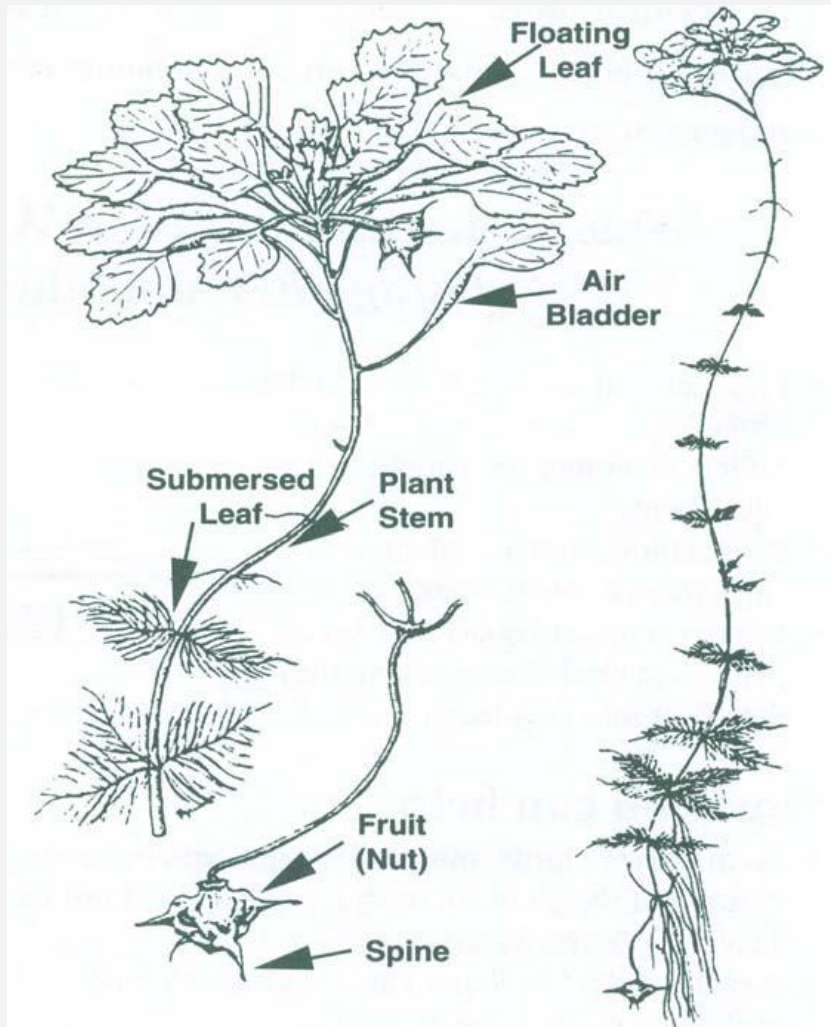
# Are leaf margins smooth or toothed?



Water chestnut has toothed margins:



# Water chestnut has two types of leaves: floating leaves and submerged



- *Floating leaves*

- form a cluster at the top of the stem
- triangular/fan-shaped with toothed edges
- 3/4" - 1 1/2" wide
- waxy on top, with soft hairs on the underside

- *Submerged leaves*

- arranged in **whorls** around the stem
- feathery



# What do the flowers look like?

Water chestnut has small **white flowers** with **4 petals**

- visible from July until the first frost.



# What does the fruit look like?

- Water chestnut "nuts" have 4 sharp barbs
  - Don't step on these!
- Mature nuts are green or greenish brown. They sink to the bottom sediment or wash up on shore and can sprout for up to 12 years.



# You are ready to take the Water Chestnut Quiz

Now you can begin the quiz to the right.

Question #7, 8, 9, and 10 refer to the photos on the next slides.

Good luck!



## Question # 7





## Question # 8



## Question # 9



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## Question # 10



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