

*Salvinia molesta* Mitch.

Fam: Salviniaceae

Giant Salvinia

**Synonyms:** *Salvinia auriculata* auct. non Aubl. (often traded under this name),  
*Salvinia radula* Baker

**Ecology:** Giant Salvinia is a tropical floating aquatic plant, unable to survive the winter in the Netherlands. The typical growth form is a large plant with folded leaves, but this only occurs under optimal conditions. Reproduction is exclusively vegetative. Nutrient-rich, static water can be rapidly covered by its vigorous clonal growth.

**Threat:** The presence of large amounts of Giant Salvinia can cause deoxygenation of the water. In the short term, the species can have serious negative effects, hindering water circulation and killing submerged vegetation. As Giant Salvinia cannot survive in winter in the Netherlands, it is not a serious problem.

**Control:** Control measures are rarely necessary because the species is not hardy.

**Identification / similar species:** Giant Salvinia may be mistaken for the European species, Floating Water-moss (*Salvinia natans*). Giant Salvinia has folded leaves when the plant is fully developed with the hairs fused at the ends. In contrast, the leaves of Floating Water-moss are never folded and the hairs are all bent in the same direction, never fused. Giant Salvinia is often incorrectly traded as *S. natans*.

