

Yellow Floatingheart

(*Nymphoides peltata*)

Yellow floatingheart is an invasive aquatic plant native to Europe and Asia. It is a popular ornamental water garden species that has become established in several areas of North America, valued for its long and prolific blooming periods. Since its introduction, accidental and intentional releases and flooding, have aided in its dispersal into other waterways.

Masthead photo: Greg Bales, MNRF

Range

Yellow floatingheart is most commonly found in slow moving waters, about 0.5 to 4m deep, such as rivers, lakes, or ponds. Its ability to reproduce by broken stems and seeds and its availability to be purchased online makes it an easily dispersed species.

Currently, there are very few populations of yellow floatingheart in Ontario, but this plant has been found growing in ponds in Sudbury, ON as early as 1942 and at Turkey Point, ON as early as 1953. The plant has also been recorded in the Royal Botanical Gardens and reported in Ottawa (several ponds), including Brown's Inlet. The species has also been reported in the Belleville, ON area.

Yellow floatingheart is commonly available from retail garden centres. Plants can escape from private gardens to natural waterways either through flooding or intentional introductions. The plant is currently found in over 20 states in the US and was sold there as early as 1891.

To check yellow floatingheart's current distribution, visit the EDDMapS Ontario website.



Yellow floatingheart. Photo: Greg Bales, MNRF

Impacts of Yellow Floatingheart

- Yellow floatingheart can form dense mats of floating vegetation that shades native aquatic plants growing below the water.
- In extremely dense stands, water becomes stagnant and has lower levels of oxygen, negatively affecting fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Dense mats of yellow floatingheart can also make it difficult to enjoy recreational activities, such as boating, fishing, and swimming.

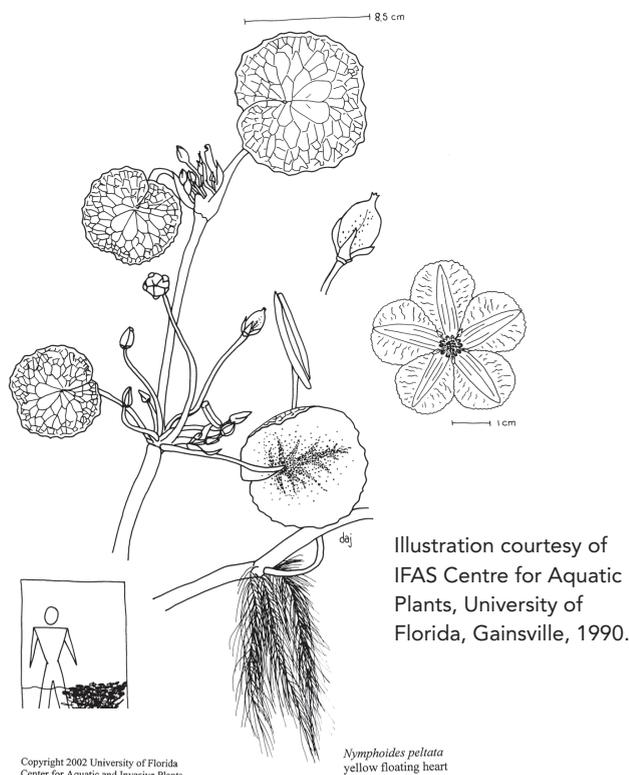


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How to Identify Yellow Floatingheart

- Leaves are shiny, green, heart-shaped or nearly circular that measure 5-15cm long and are set on stalks that float at the water's surface.
- Leaves are frequently seen with reddish-purple blotches and are slightly wavy or rippled.
- Flowering occurs between June and October and flowers are produced in clusters on stalks just above the water surface. There may be anywhere from one to five flowers in clusters that possess five yellow petals that have distinct rippled edges.
- Bottom-rooted root system with long branched stems that reach up to 1m or more.

Yellow floatingheart may be confused with native species, such as yellow pond and bullhead lilies (*Nuphar variegatum* & *N. advena*). However, the yellow flowers of these native plants do not possess fringed petals.



Yellow floatingheart. Photo: Greg Bales, MNRF.

What You Can Do

- Learn how to identify yellow floatingheart and how to prevent accidentally spreading invasive species.
- Avoid infested areas or reduce your speed when travelling near yellow floatingheart infestations. Boat wake can dislodge plants and allow them to spread to new areas.
- Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment after each use. Remove all plants, animals, and mud before moving to a new waterbody.
- Avoid planting yellow floatingheart in your aquarium or water garden. Aquarium hobbyists and water gardeners should only use native or non-invasive plants. Ask your retailer for advice on plants that are non-invasive.
- Never release unwanted aquarium plants or pets into the wild. Return or donate unwanted plants to a garden centre or pet store, or put them in the garbage.
- If you've seen yellow floatingheart or another invasive species in the wild, please contact the toll-free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario to report a sighting.

Other Resources:

www.invasivespecies.com
www.ontario.ca/invasivespecies
www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario

For More Information:

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