

# Eelgrass

*Vallisneria spiralis*, *V. gigantea*

Detect this pest plant before it becomes a problem

## Why it's a problem:

Eelgrass is an invasive aquatic species.

- It spreads by rhizomes and forms dense beds that displace native vegetation.
- It can block still and flowing waterways, causing flooding.

## Appearance:

Eelgrass is an aquatic plant that can grow to a depth of 9m in fresh water.

- Leaves vary from light green to brown, but are usually green in long, strap-like form and are slimy to touch.
- The size of the plant depends on the habitat.
- The rhizome roots easily form new plants, which form dense masses and can block waterways and cause sediment build-up.

## Location:

Streams, drains, wetlands, lake margins, ponds and aquariums



## Get more information:

- [Weedbusters](#) provides descriptions and images to help with pest identification.
- [Agpest](#) is an identification tool for pests, biology, impact and management for farmers and agricultural professionals.
- [iNaturalist](#) is a sharing tool that contributes to biodiversity science for avid nature observers.
- Manaaki Whenua – [Landcare Research](#) provides information on weeds and biocontrol
- [Ministry for Primary Industries](#) (MPI) for information on protecting New Zealand from biological risk.
- Practice [biosecurity hygiene](#) to stop the spreading of pests.

Contact us:

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If you see this plant on your property or need help to identify a plant in the Wellington Region, contact us on **0800 496 734** or email [pest.plants@gw.govt.nz](mailto:pest.plants@gw.govt.nz).

We help to support landowners with the management of this pest plant found in the Wellington Region.