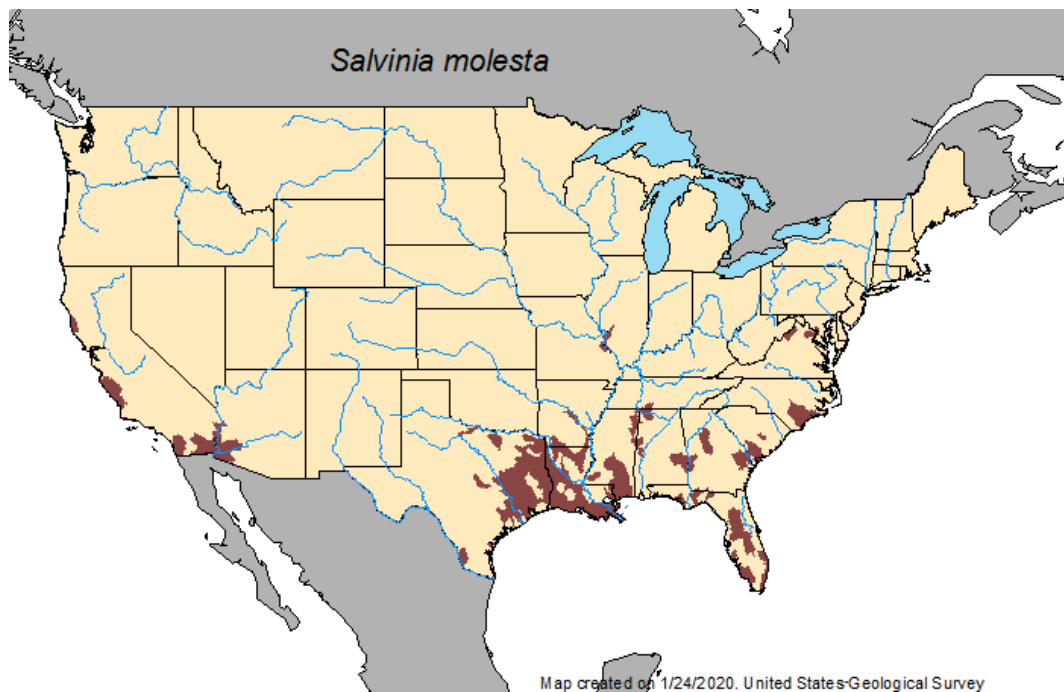


Giant Salvinia



When it comes to undesirable aquatic plants, Giant Salvinia may be in the lead for the most undesired aquatic plant in Georgia. Native to Brazil, this free-floating fern can double in biomass in 10 days or less. Once established, it can cover waterbodies and pose significant negative impacts on native species.

Discoveries of Giant Salvinia



Giant Salvinia Identification

A notorious aquatic plant, Giant Salvinia has been found in multiple locations in Georgia. The species can be confused with another salvinia species, Common Salvinia. One difference between these species is the “egg beater” shaped hairs found on the surface of Giant Salvinia leaves. The guide below can help further distinguish the species. Should you have questions regarding identification of an aquatic plant you

have found, or if you suspect you have found Giant Salvinia, **RETAIN THE SPECIMEN** and **IMMEDIATELY** [contact your regional Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division Fisheries Office](#).

How to identify giant versus common salvinia



Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)



Note "egg-beater" shaped leaf hairs

- Large, vertical leaves
- Folded plant form
- Forms thick mats

Common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*)



Note open, branched leaf hairs

- Small, horizontal leaves
- Flat plant form
- Mat often single layer

Source: LSU Ag Center

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/environment/invasive%20species/giant%20salvinia/resources>

So, What Harm does Giant Salvinia Cause?

A notorious aquatic fern, Giant salvinia has been found in several states, including Georgia. At first glance, it's hard to think of this small plant as being a big problem, but it's rapid growth and ability to choke out native vegetation can have significant ecological impacts. Unmanaged, the species can form large mats on the water's surface that prevent light and oxygen from entering the water. The lack of oxygen in infested waters can result in large-scale die-offs for aquatic biota, including fish. Furthermore, the dense mats formed by the plant can impede navigation as well, thus restricting boating activities, which may lead to additional economic impacts where recreational boating is popular.

Current Management for Giant Salvinia

When feasible, staff with the GA DNR have taken a proactive approach to actively eliminate Giant salvinia when it's found. Staff with GA DNR encourage members of the public to keep a vigilant eye out for the species and report it to your local GADNR office should it be encountered.