



## Parrot's feather weed - *Myriophyllum aquaticum*

A distinctive aquatic perennial with feather-like leaves which forms dense rafts across the water surface. . Grown in water gardens in the UK since 1878 and first recorded in the wild in 1960. Initial spread was by improper disposal of pond and aquarium plants. Present year round, most often in nutrient rich waters and unlikely to be found in fast flowing water. Causes flooding by blocking watercourses and drainage channels. Can rapidly dominate a water body displacing native species.

### Management Options:

#### Chemical Treatment

Glyphosate at 6 l/ha. Efficiency greatly increased with use of the adjuvant TopFilm at 1 l/ha.

- Suitability:** Most effective against thinner mats to allow good contact with the herbicide and reduce the risk of deoxygenation.
- Equipment:** Knapsack sprayer, preferably with a long-lance. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.
- Efficiency:** Moderate, depending on the proportion of submerged material.
- Constraints:** Requires AqHerb01 approval from the Environment Agency and NPTC PA1 & PA6 qualifications. Potential non-target damage. Risk of deoxygenation if large decomposing biomass is not removed

#### Mechanical Dredging

Often a prelude to chemical treatment to reduce biomass at heavily infested sites. The location should be netted to retain propagules

- Suitability:** Very effective if access is adequate and propagules can be prevented from spreading. Reduction in silt associated with dredging tends to make the site less favourable for recolonisation by parrot's feather.
- Equipment:** Digger/swing-shovel, dumper/tractor & trailer. Stop-nets and sweep nets. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.
- Efficiency:** Good, if propagules can be contained and removed.
- Constraints:** Requires good access and appropriate methods for waste management. Silts may contain heavy metals and other contaminants. Avoid damage to the habitats of sensitive species, such as water voles and nesting birds.

#### Manual Pulling

Dispose of hand-pulled and raked material by composting away from water habitats.

- Suitability:** Particularly relevant for smaller infestations, but can be very effective against any size of infestation, depending on the resources and time available. Very effective if access is adequate and propagules can be prevented from spreading. Suitable for volunteer groups.

