



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham WA 98226
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DELTA ARROWHEAD

Sagittaria platyphylla

THREAT: Delta arrowhead is a native of the southeastern United States, which has been cultivated and moved as an ornamental. It has been found in one location in Washington State. In areas where it is not native, delta arrowhead can be invasive in irrigation canals, creeks and wetlands. It forms dense patches, impacting native plants and water flow. Delta arrowhead can spread by seeds, rhizomes, tubers and plant pieces. Water, animals, machinery and people can transport seed and plant material to new sites. It is shade tolerant, and grows in both still and flowing water. Delta arrowhead is on the Washington State quarantine list, making it illegal to buy, sell or transport this plant in Washington.

DESCRIPTION: Delta arrowhead is an aquatic perennial that grows up to 4 feet high. It has long, thin submerged leaves, growing to 20 inches, and lance-shape emergent leaves, up to a foot long and 4 inches wide, which grow on long, rigid stems. The small, white flowers are borne on stems, above water. Delta arrowhead blooms from spring to autumn, depending on the location.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: As with all aquatic weeds, control is difficult and eradication may be unrealistic. To prevent the spread of aquatic plants, all plant material should be removed from boating and recreational equipment before moving to another water body. Delta arrowhead can be controlled using mechanical means. Hand-digging can be used for small infestations. Care must be taken to remove all roots, rhizomes and plant pieces from the water. Contact the weed control board for site-specific recommendations.



Photo: Milo Pyne @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1991. *Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species*. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, TX.

Drawing: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 1: 103.