

What is Watermeal?

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About Watermeal

- Watermeal is an **aquatic plant in the Araceae family**.
- It is the **smallest flowering plant in the world** and **appears as small green seeds**.
- It is often **referred to as “duckweed”** because it is a **favorite food of ducks**.

Distribution

- It flourishes in **temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical locations**.
- They grow on the **surface of lakes, ponds, and marshes**.

Features

- It is a **very tiny (less than 1 millimeter)** light **green, free-floating, rootless plant**.
- It is **branchless** and also has **no leaves**.

- It consists of a **single, oval, or spherical frond** that floats on the surface of still or slow-moving water bodies.
 - It also **produces the world's smallest fruit, called a utricle.**
 - It is a **nutritional powerhouse**. It is a complete protein, meaning that it **contains all nine essential amino acids.**
 - In some cases, **watermeal can become invasive** and form dense mats that cover the entire surface of a water body.
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Q1: What is an invasive species?

An invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area. Invasive species can cause great economic and environmental harm to the new area.

Source: [Earth's smallest flowering plant may become food, oxygen source for astronauts](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-watermeal/>

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