

Salvinia molesta

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About Salvinia molesta:

- It is a highly **detrimental aquatic fern**.
- It is commonly known as “**Water Fern**” is an aggressive and a fast growing Alien Invasive Aquatic Weed of the **South-Eastern Brazil origin**.
- It prefers **tropical, sub-tropical or warm temperate areas** of the world and grows best in still or slow-moving water bodies including ditches, ponds, lakes, slow rivers and canals.
- It is locally **known as “Chinese Jhalaar”**, this invasive species was **first spotted in India in 2018** and had completely carpeted the reservoir by 2019.
- **Impacts on environment:** It may form dense vegetation mats that reduce water-flow and lower the light and oxygen levels in the water.

- It has been widely **introduced as an ornamental plant** and has been used as a mulch for crops in dry areas near water bodies where it grows.
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Q1: What is Fern?

It is a class of nonflowering, herbaceous vascular plants that possess true roots, stems, and complex leaves and that reproduce by spores.

Source: Foreign insects turn allies in eradicating invasive aquatic weeds

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/salvinia-molesta/>

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