

Feathered Mosquito Fern (*Azolla pinnata*)

Category: EDRR

Distribution: Not found in the Western US.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- Christmas tree shape
- Tiny leaves are green, often with a red or brown tint and feather-like roots.

Background

- Free floating aquatic plant which forms clusters or large mats
- Spreads rapidly, and has the ability to survive on moist soil
- Degrades water quality by reducing oxygen levels, and can interfere with boating, fishing and recreational activities
- Federally listed noxious weed
- Found as a contaminant in nursery stock in Idaho in 2007.



Similar Plants

- Native mosquito ferns (these do not have the Christmas tree shape)

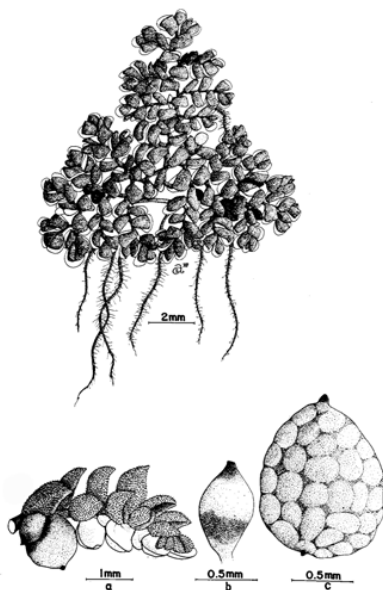


Fig. 4.42. *Azolla pinnata* R.Br.
a. branch with basal sporocarp; b. female (mega-) sporocarp; c. male (micro-) sporocarp.



Azolla covering a waterway