

# Sagittaria montevidensis subsp. montevidensis

## COMMON NAMES

Arrowhead

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

A marginal aquatic plant, up to 2m tall with broad light green arrow-shaped leaves and white flowers that have purple blotches on the inside.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall emergent perennial or annual herb. Stems are erect from 7 cm to 2m tall. Emergent leaves have a distinctive arrow-shape with basal lobes up to 15 cm long. The rest of the leaf is up to 25 cm long and 20 cm wide. Flowers are 3-petaled, white with a purple basal spot, about 2.5 cm in diameter, arranged in whorls, with male flowers in upper whorls and female flowers in lower. Fruiting heads globose, 1.5-3 cm across, each with up to 2000 seeds. Seeds are brown, wedge shaped, 2-3 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, winged with a characteristic oblique beak.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Sagittaria* species. *Sagittaria montevidensis* has arrow-shaped leaves but petioles are D-shaped in cross-section and it does not produce creeping rhizomes or tubers. The two other *Sagittaria* species present in New Zealand (*S. subulata* and *S. platyphylla*) do not have arrow-shaped emergent leaves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised, mostly Auckland and Waikato Regions.

## HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies and wetlands.

## GENUS

*Sagittaria*

## FAMILY

Alismataceae

## AUTHORITY

*Sagittaria montevidensis* subsp. *montevidensis* Cham. & Schlecht

## FLOWERING

Summer

## FRUITING

Autumn

## YEAR NATURALISED

1996



*Sagittaria montevidensis*. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

## ORIGIN

Native to tropics and subtropics of America.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond and aquarium plant

## TOLERANCES

Seed is frost hardy.

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Notify regional council if found

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Annual or Perennial. Seeds profusely (up to 100 seeds per flower). Buds off basal rhizome can resprout. Matures quickly. produced seed within 6 months. Seeds. Seeds via water flow and possibly water fowl. Pond escape in floods, deliberate plantings, contaminated diggers, livestock.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

DiTomaso JM, EA Healy (2003). Aquatic and riparian weeds of the west. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3421, 462pp.

Kasselman C (2003). Aquarium plants. Krieger Publishing company, Florida, 518pp.

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sagittaria-montevicensis-subsp-montevicensis/>

## PDF DATE

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