

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

Eelgrass

Vallisneria spiralis and *V.gigantea*

How do I identify eelgrass?

Fully submerged, aquatic plant that can grow to a **depth of 9 metres** in fresh water

Leaves: Vary in colour from light green to brown but usually green. Long, **strap like** and **slimy** to touch

Roots: Under ground/ water runners that send up new shoots

Where found: Streams, drains, wetlands, lake margins, ponds and aquariums

What's the problem?

- Eelgrass is a fast growing aquatic species that out-competes native water species for light, nutrients and space
- Blocks waterways and can cause sediment build-up that can lead to flooding

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have eelgrass or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is eelgrass, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

In flowing water the individual strap like leaves of eelgrass may look like eels swimming?



Photo: Champion (NIWA)

Seen it? Call us!

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