

YELLOW FLOATING HEART

Nymphoides peltata



Overview:

Yellow floatingheart is a perennial aquatic plant native to Asia and Europe. Introduced to North America in the late 19th century, it has been used as an ornamental plant in outdoor gardens. Since its introduction, accidental and intentional releases and flooding, have aided in its dispersal into other waterways.

Yellow floatingheart is most commonly found in slow moving waters, about 0.5 to 4 m deep, such as rivers, lakes or ponds. Its ability to reproduce by broken stems and seeds and its availability to be purchased online make it an easily dispersed species.

The bright yellow flowers with the pair of opposite leaves in this species distinguish it from other *Nymphoides* spp. in northeastern North America. Superficially, it is similar to native yellow pond and bullhead lilies (*Nuphar variegatum*, *N. advena*) which have yellow flowers but lack the fringed petal edges of yellow floating heart.

Habitat:

Prefers quiet waters, slow moving rivers, lakes, ponds, and canals; it can grow on damp mud and water to 4 m deep.

Identification:

Floating, perennial, rooted aquatic plant.

Leaves: floating, simple, heart-shaped to almost circular, 3-10 cm broad, with long leaf stalk arising from underwater rhizomes; short-petioled leaves occur as a pair of opposite leaves and with yellow flowers just above.

Flowers: occur at water surface, bright yellow in colour, 2-4 cm in diameter; 5-petaled with edges distinctly fringed. Flowers between June and October.

Fruit: strongly beaked, 12-25 mm.

Prevention & Control:

Learn how to identify yellow floatingheart and how to prevent accidentally spreading this invasive species.

Avoid infested areas or reduce your speed when travelling by yellow floatingheart infestations. Your propeller can break off fragments and spread the pieces to new areas.

Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment after each use. Remove all plants, animals and mud before moving to a new waterbody.

Avoid planting yellow floatingheart in your aquarium or water garden. Aquarium hobbyists and water gardeners should only use native or non-invasive plants, and are encouraged to ask retailers for plants that are not invasive.

Never release unwanted aquarium plants or pets. Return or donate unwanted plants to a garden centre or pet store, or put them in the garbage.