

# Grow Me Instead

## Invasive Plants and Safe Alternatives



DANVA LAXTON

### Invasive Plant

#### European Frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

European Frog-bit is native to Eurasia. In the 19th century, it was introduced to the Ottawa area through the Rideau Canal. It is a popular plant in water gardens and aquariums, and is used as a plant to add oxygen to ponds. It spreads prolifically, even in ponds, leading to excess plant material. If it is dumped in lakes or rivers, it can spread to form thick mats of plants, changing fish habitat and making the water inaccessible for swimming, boating and fishing. The heart-shaped leaves that float on the surface of the water are about the size of a toonie, and it has small, white flowers with three petals. European Frog-bit has been reported from Eagle Lake near Dryden, which would be a huge jump from its previously known distribution in Southern Ontario, and is likely the result of plants “escaping” ponds either through flooding or being dumped in the lake.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### Safe Alternative

#### Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar variegata*)

Yellow Pond Lily, also known as Bullhead Lily, is a common sight in northern Ontario waterways. It is native to most of Canada, and the northern U.S. It has floating heart-shaped leaves which are between 10 to 25 cm long. The showy yellow globular flowers emerge in the summer and last through the fall. It can grow in water up to 2 m deep, and can grow in sun or shade, though it is more likely to flower in sun. It can be difficult to find in typical water garden or pond stores, but if found is quite hardy. It is recommended to grow this plant in containers as it sprouts new plants from the rhizome (root).

For more information on Grow Me Instead, or to see the full guide, visit [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)