

# Appendix One

## Water Plants as Wetland Indicator Species



*This is a product of The Water Research Commission: Project No. K5/2350*

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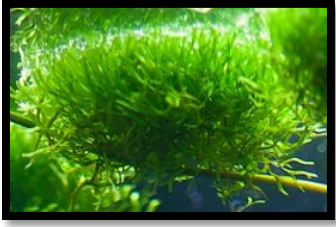




## APPENDIX ONE





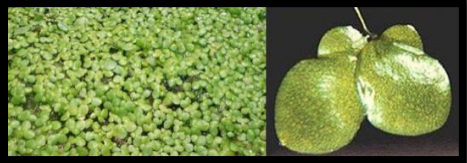

### WATER PLANTS AS WETLAND INDICATOR SPECIES

For details of websites that you might find useful please refer to:






Section E: Appendix **USEFUL EXPLANATIONS, E-REFERENCES & APPENDIXES**






## Vegetation of Wetland Systems




	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Water Crystalwort</u> <u>(Riccia fluitans)</u></p>	<p>This is a floating plant that is actually made up of hundreds of smaller, interlinked plants.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peat Moss</u> <u>(Sphagnum)</u></p>	<p>Peat moss in South Africa grows in open swamp-like environments. However, there is not as much Peat moss in South Africa as in other parts of the world. This species stores water in its leaves.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mosquito Fern</u> <u>(Azolla Pinnata)</u></p>	<p>This fern is an aquatic alien species in South Africa. It has become invasive because it spreads quickly and creates dense vegetation near still water.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cape Bullrush</u> <u>Typha Capensis</u></p>	<p>This is a very common species that is well adapted to wet and muddy environments. It has very strong fibrous roots that help to anchor the plant so that it is not affected by strong winds.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Floating Pondweed</u> <u>(Potamogeton natans)</u></p>	<p>This pondweed grows on muddy banks and still/very slow-flowing water. It can potentially take over in confined areas.</p>

	<p><u>Day Water Lily</u> <u>(<i>Nymphaea Nouchali</i>)</u></p>	<p>This is an alien species. The flowers can be white, yellow, pink or blue. They only open in the sunshine.</p>
	<p><u>Saw-Weed</u> <u>(<i>Najas Pectinata</i>)</u></p>	<p>Saw-Weed grows below the surface of the water and forms large clumps. When this species is in abundance it can cause a problem with the stream flow.</p>
	<p><u>Papyrus</u> <u>(<i>Cyperus Papyrus</i>)</u></p>	<p>This species requires full sunshine and protection from strong winds to thrive. It grows in wetlands and on the edges of rivers and dams.</p>
	<p><u>Water Lettuce</u> <u>(<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>)</u></p>	<p>Water Lettuce is an alien invasive species in South Africa. It is problematic but it does provide habitats for water birds.</p>
	<p><u>Duck Weed</u> <u>(<i>Lemna Gibba</i>)</u></p>	<p>Duck weed is a very small, light green floating plant that grows on stagnant or very slow flowing water.</p>
	<p><u>Water Hyacinth</u> <u>(<i>Eichhornia Crassipes</i>)</u></p>	<p>This is a very invasive alien species that causes a lot of damage in South Africa. It thrives in wetland environments.</p>



	<p><u>Arum Lily</u> <u>(Zantedeschia aethiopica)</u></p>	<p>This species requires a wet area or high rainfall to thrive.</p>
	<p><u>Vlei Bluestem</u> <u>(Andropogon appendiculatus)</u></p>	<p>The Vlei Bluestem is a water dependant grass that is endemic to Southern Africa.</p>
	<p><u>Red Hot Poker</u> <u>(Kniphofia)</u></p>	<p>This species grows next to rivers or in areas that are marshy/wet most of the year.</p>
	<p><u>Ngongoni Grass</u> <u>(Aristida junciformis)</u></p>	<p>This is a very tall grass that inhabits damp areas. It is unpalatable to grazers which may cause problems because the animals then overgraze the other grasses.</p>
	<p><u>Upright Waterblommetjie</u> <u>(Aponogeton Junceus)</u></p>	<p>This species is very common in shallow water and flood plains.</p>

	<p><u>Drooping Sedge</u> <u>(<i>Carex Austro-Africana</i>)</u></p>	<p>The leaves of this indigenous plant are very rough. It grows in shallow water in streams and wetlands.</p>
	<p><u>Tall Slender Sedge</u> <u>(<i>Cyperus Fastigiatus</i>)</u></p>	<p>This species requires a permanent water source to grow.</p>
	<p><u>Smooth Flat Sedge</u> <u>(<i>Cyperus Laevigatus</i>)</u></p>	<p>This species is relatively short sedge that can be used for the prevention of soil erosion. It is a very popular meal amongst water birds.</p>
	<p><u>Butterfly Gladiolus</u> <u>(<i>Gladiolus Papilio</i>)</u></p>	<p>This species thrives in wet but sunny conditions.</p>
	<p><u>Scarlet River Lily</u> <u>(<i>Hesperantha Coccinea</i>)</u></p>	<p>The Scarlet River Lily occurs on stream banks. The flowers are usually red but can also be pink or white.</p>

	<p><u>Prickly Rush</u> <u>(Juncus Punctorius)</u></p>	<p>This species is found near permanent water sources. It is identifiable by the clumps of brown flowers.</p>
	<p><u>Rigid Rush</u> <u>(Juncus Rigidus)</u></p>	<p>Rigid rush generally grows in wet, sandy areas.</p>
	<p><u>Common Reed</u> <u>(Phragmites Australis)</u></p>	<p>This reed is very tolerant and is abundant in many places. It grows in almost all types of aquatic environments.</p>