

Water Hyacinth is a Dangerous Weed



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WATER hyacinth, one of the world's most rapid growing plants and capable under suitable climatic conditions of completely covering lakes and waterways with a dense growth of roots and leaves, is well established in some ponds, lagoons, and waterways in the North Island.

THOUGH doing little or no damage in some areas where it has been found, it has proved to be very dangerous when it has escaped into streams running from ponds and thus into bigger waterways, where it has given considerable trouble by stopping the free flow of water.

Growth near Shannon

An extensive growth of water hyacinth has recently been found in a small pond near Shannon. A few plants introduced 2 or 3 years ago have produced a growth which has now spread completely over the pond. The water from this pond runs into a stream which eventually flows into the Manawatu River, and there is great danger of water hyacinth getting into these waterways, where it would be extremely costly to eradicate.

Above—Water hyacinth has the reputation of being the world's fastest growing water plant. In suitable conditions it rapidly forms a bank to bank cover. Below—An extensive growth of water hyacinth in a small pond near Shannon. A few plants introduced 2 or 3 years ago have produced a growth which has now spread completely over the pond.

