

# Water Shield

*Brasenia schreberi*

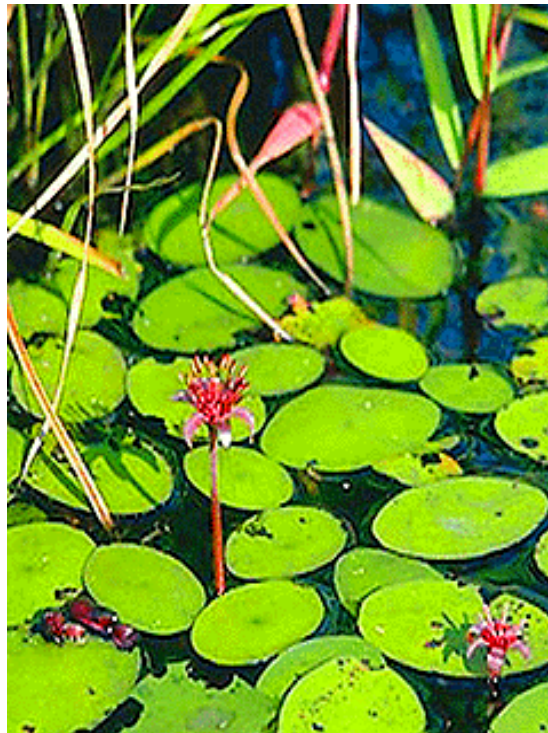
-The stems and leaves of Water Shield are elastic and allow the floating leaves to ride the waves without uprooting the rhizome that serves as an anchor and source of stored nutrients.

-The leaves stalks attach to the middle of the leaves creating a bull's eye effect that is reflected in one of its other common names, "Water Target." The leaves have a green upper surface and purple underside. Their maroon/purple flowers are held just above the water surface by stout flower stalks. All submersed portions of the plant are covered with a thick, gelatinous coating.

-Most of this plant is encased in a crystal clear gel so slick it can slide right through your fingers. The football shaped leaves make thickets of sinuous reddish stems that rise toward the surface.

-Water Shield can be grown as an ornamental plant, and it does best in soft water with sediment that contains some peat. It can grow in water up to 7 feet deep.

-If you are serious about planting some emergent aquatic vegetation, then I highly suggest Water Shield. As a fisherman myself, I know that when I see this plant, it is time to stop the canoe and start fishing.



**If you get a hit every time, the target is either too big or too close.**

**-Tom Hirshfield**