



Water lettuce
Pistia stratiotes
Photo by Ann Murray
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Response to 5/15/14 Memo


1. Water-lettuce is not controlled because it is an exotic species.
2. No evidence of Water-lettuce resistance to any herbicides.
 1. Herbicide use is reduced by regular control.
3. Water-lettuce is not an environmentally friendly means of hydrilla control.
4. Water-lettuce is not a favorite food of the manatee (prefer diversity)

Guterres-Pazin et.al

Aquatic Mammals 2014

- 246 Stomach and Fecal Samples (14 years)
- 69 Species fed upon

• 1(Hymenachne)	59%
• 2(Oryza)	45%
• 3 (Paspalum)	43%
• 5 (Lymnobium)	35%
• 20 (Pistia)	11%
• 50 (Eichhornia)	3%



“The Florida manatee..... Presents a low consumption of floating plants (0.8%), with greater consumption of submersed plants (69.2%), followed by emergent and terrestrial plants (14.9%).”

D.A. Ledder (1986) MS Thesis: University of Miami: 84
Gut Contents: 1977-1981

Water-lettuce acts as a sponge to absorb nutrients.

- No different than other plants
- Very large nutrient pool in sediments
- Must cover large area or % of lake
- Must harvest plants, likely contain plants
- May not grow well, grows along shore

“Cattle like water lettuce”

A.Y. Ayaode, et.al 1982 Trials of *Pistia stratiotes* L. as
Animal Feed. JAPMS (20)

West Africa Fodder needs during dry season

Fresh Plant + Grain

Dried Plant + Grain

Chopped Plant

Salient Points

- Cattle tried to separate the water lettuce from the grain
- Starved rats (48 hrs) did not eat the water lettuce
- Likely due to odor
- Pigs however did consume the water lettuce

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Pistia stratiotes
Photo by Dr. Bill Haller
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- Removal of *Pistia stratiotes* from the exotic species list will not reduce the control efforts. The reason for control is due to its prolific growth and negative impacts on the aquatic environment.



