

Invasive plants

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A photograph of a lush field of purple flowers, likely purple loosestrife, growing along the edge of a pond. The flowers are in full bloom, creating a dense, vibrant purple carpet. In the background, a line of trees, including some bare, white trunks, stands against a green forest. The pond's surface is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery and the purple flowers. The overall scene is a natural, somewhat overgrown landscape.

Invasive plant is one that has been planted intentionally or otherwise though human agency or accidentally, from one region to another



Siam weed



Giant Sensitive Plant



Pink Morning Glory



Congress Grass



Tilapia



Lantana



African giant snail



Climbing Hemp Vine



Water Hyacinth

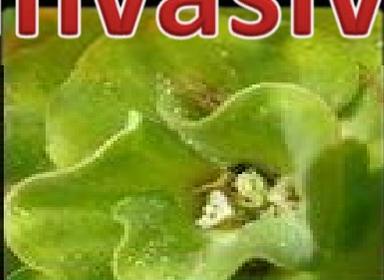


Mesquite

Invasive plants in India



Kily Pear Cactus



Water Cabbage



Black Wattle



Giant Salvinia



Tall Hedge Mustard



Leaf Pondweed



Parrot Feather



Stinking chamomile



Poison Hemlock



Sticky Snakeroot

Congress grass

Scientific name— *Parthenium hysterophorus*

Family—*Asteraceae*

Nativity—tropical north america

(recorded in India in the year 1956)

Distribution in India—throughout India

Propagation—seed.



Harmful effects of congress grass

- Total habitat change in native species
- It contains chemicals, like parthenin, hysterin, hymenin, and ambrosin, and due to the presence of these chemicals, the weed exerts strong allelopathic effects on different crops.
- It is toxic to animals causing dermatitis with pronounced skin lesions on various animals including horses and cattles. If eaten, it is responsible for mouth ulcers with excessive salivation.
- The pollen grains, airborne dried plant parts, and roots of parthenium cause various allergies like contact dermatitis, hay fever, asthma, and bronchitis in human beings. The common allergens found in this weed are parthenin, coronopilin, tetraaneuris, and ambrosin.





Annual Erect herb 1 to 1.5m tall

**Common weed of
cultivated fields, forests,
overgrazed pastures,
waste lands and garden.**

Lantana, wild sage

Scientific name— *Lantana camara*

Family— Verbenaceae.

Nativity- Tropical America
(in India as ornamental shrub
during 1809-1810)

Distribution: Throughout India
Propagation— by seeds.



Harmful effects of Lantana, wild sage

- Lantana camara is known to be toxic to livestock such as cattle, sheep, horses, dogs and goats.
- The active substances causing toxicity in grazing animals are pentacyclic triterpenoids, which result in liver damage and photosensitivity.
- Lantana camara also excretes allelopathic chemicals, which reduce the growth of surrounding plants by inhibiting germination and root elongation.



Straggling, armed shrubs, up to 2.5m tall. Leaves 2-6 * 1.5-3.5 cm, base cordate, margin serrate.

Flowers in various colours, pink white crimson orange or rose...in axillary capitate spikes.
Drupes ripe black, 3-4 mm in diam. globose

Aggressive colonizer, common weed of forest, plantation, habitation, waste lands and shrub



GANDO BAVAL

Scientific name— *Prosopis juliflora*

Sub family—Mimosaceae.

Nativity-mexico.

(in india before 1877)

Distribution in india—throughout india

Propagation—seed.



Harmful effects of GANDO BAVAL

- Wild babool now covers the grasslands of Banni, having been introduced into the local ecosystem by the erstwhile rulers of Kutch and Saurashtra five decades ago.

- It was imported from Mexico to arrest the advance of the desert and protect coastal crops from harmful saline winds. But for the past three decades, the babool plant (*Prosopis juliflora*) has turned out to be an environmental monster, growing at lightning speed, enveloping the farmlands and rendering them infertile.

- It wiped out the grass cover of Banni, depriving cattle of their sustenance and devastating the local economy.

- The groundwater table in Banni dropped, too, given that babool guzzles enormous quantities of water as it spreads over dry terrain



Armed bushy shrubs or trees. Stipular spines to 1cm. Pinnae 1-3 pairs. LEAFLETS 15-20 PAIR. OBLONG , OBLONG TO 1.5 * 0.3CM. SPIKES 1-FEW FASCICLED. Flowers cream. Pod pale yellow, straight or curved

Aggressive colonizer, common weed of waste lands and scrub land and degraded forest.

Water hyacinth

Scientific name— *Eichhornia crespis*

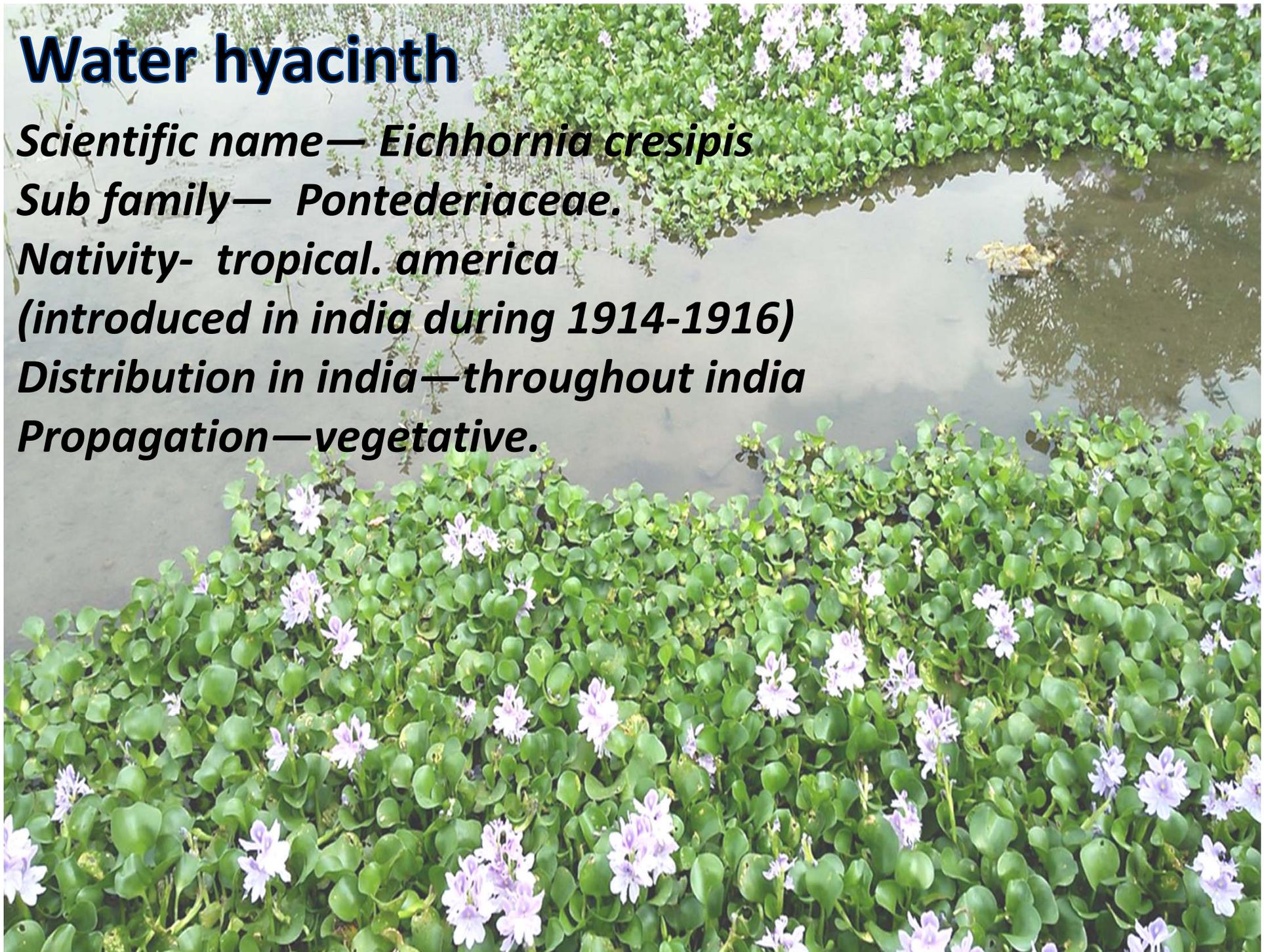
Sub family— *Pontederiaceae*.

Nativity- *tropical. america*

(introduced in india during 1914-1916)

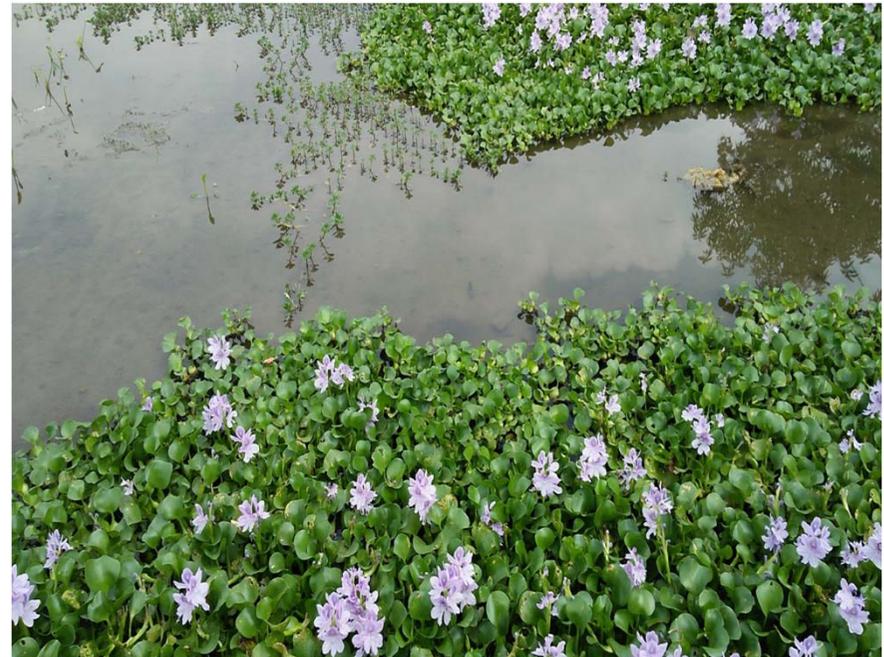
Distribution in india—throughout india

Propagation—vegetative.



Harmful effects of Water hyacinth

- It is considered the worst aquatic weed in the world. The rapid increase and spread of the plant into new areas is due particularly to its vegetative reproduction, a single plant being able to develop very rapidly a significant infestation.
- An enormous water loss through evapotranspiration, that alters the water balance of entire regions
- The impediment to water flow, that increases sedimentation, causing flooding and soil erosion
- The obstruction of navigation and serious threaten to agricultural production, following the blockage of irrigation canals and drainage systems.
- Hampering fishing and dramatically reducing the catch and the source of food and income for local populations
- A drastic change in the physical and chemical properties of water and in the environment in the water bodies invaded, with detrimental effects on plants and animals. The reduction of the activity of electrical power stations, jeopardizing the power supply of the country





Herb- free floating or rooted, stolons slender, roots elongate , fibrous. Leaves broadly ovate rhomboid.

Perianth tube greenish :: lobes upper one lilac, with blue to violet border and yellow medium blotch,

Aggressive colonizer, abundant in still or slow floating waters which are highly polluted.