
DUCKWEED



Lemna minor

Photo Credit
AquariumCoop.com

Aliases: Water Lens, Bayroot

Origin: Most of Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America

Natural Growth: Freshwater ponds and slow moving streams

In the aquarium setting many people dismiss duckweed as an undesirable pest, but when managed on a regular basis it can be a useful tool in keeping quality water for healthy animals. Duckweed spreads itself quickly over the surface of a tank and can be problematic if it manages to interfere with flow into filters or completely closes off the surface of the tank leading to depleted oxygen in the water.

Duckweed requires no special care, and in my own case a single stray bit of duckweed from a fish store has lead to a consistent excess of the plant that must be skimmed off to permit light to reach the plants at lower levels. Due to the excessive amount I remove every week during water changes I am actively considering ways it which it might be utilized to feed fish, or seeing if anyone I know has goldfish that might be interested in a snack.