

# Planting Seeds of Clarity



## Publication and development of the Australian Standard for Aquatic Plant Names

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VELVET FINGERS, *Codium duthieae* (Photo John Huisman)

Industry representatives collaborated to develop a list of standard names for current commercial, and potentially commercial aquatic plant species. The voluntary Standard is a best-practice guide for use throughout the supply chain.

Given the rapidly emerging commercial trade in aquatic plants, in 2020 the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), which is a Standards Development Organisation under the auspices of Standards Australia, established the Aquatic Plant Names Committee to manage a new Australian Standard for Aquatic Plant Names (AS 5301).

The Committee, which meets twice a year, comprises representatives from the following industry sectors: harvesting, production, retail and hospitality; a representative from academia; and an independent Chair. The Standard is supported by approved policies and procedures; and is audited by Standards Australia annually.

### Outcomes From Use of Names

Adoption of the Standard for Aquatic Plant Names will assist with consistent legislation and policy across Australia, as well as informed marketing and consumer choice, specifically:

#### Public Health and Safety

- \* Increased consumer confidence in species identification
- \* Information to help consumers avoid potential allergens and/or toxins

#### Social and Community Impact

- \* Agreed set of standard names early in industry's development
- \* Widespread stakeholder trust and support

#### Environmental Impact

- \* Improved management of aquatic resources
- \* Accurate links to stock/resource assessment data

#### Competition

- \* International alignment of names, particularly where product is imported (i.e., the same name applies regardless of origin)

#### Economic Impact

- \* Truth in labeling reduces retail marketplace confusion
- \* Producers and suppliers can develop marketing strategies based on agreed and accepted names

Golden Kelp, *Ecklonia radiata* (Photo Melanie Wells)

### Examples of Standard Names

Capitals signify group names covering more than one species

- \* Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*)
- \* SEA LETTUCES (*Ulva* spp.)
- \* Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*)

#### Search and/or apply to amend the Standard at:

[www.frdc.com.au/knowledge-hub/standards/aquatic-plant-names-standard](http://www.frdc.com.au/knowledge-hub/standards/aquatic-plant-names-standard)

### Scope

#### What is an Aquatic Plant?

For the purposes of this Standard, aquatic plants are defined as vascular plants, aquatic protists, and photosynthetic prokaryotes that are used commercially as a source of food, therapeutics, derivatives and additives, that naturally require saltwater or freshwater habitats for growth.

#### Taxa Covered

Representatives of the following higher-level groups are included: brown algae (19 standard names in the first edition of the Standard), cyanobacteria (2), green algae (8), red algae (8), aquatic protists (1) and flowering plants (11). Following the publication of these 49 names in 2020, applications for two additional standard names were processed and approved in 2022, bringing the current total number of Aquatic Plant Standard Names to 51. Development of the Standard is ongoing, and applications to add species and/or amend names are welcomed. Naming protocols are available online.

#### One Name Per Species

In the vast majority of cases, only one standard name applies to each species. However, the three utilised components of *Undaria pinnatifida* differ to one another, and three separate standard names apply: Wakame (frond), Mekabu (sporophyll) and Kukiwakame (midrib).

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